

1 Introduced by Council Members Johnson and Pittman and Co-Sponsored
2 by Council Member Freeman:
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5 **RESOLUTION 2025-744-A**

6 A RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY
7 OF JACKSONVILLE ARTS AND MUSIC SCHOOL (JAMS),
8 HONORING ITS IMPACT ON YOUTH THROUGH ARTS
9 EDUCATION AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT; PROVIDING
10 AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
11

12 **WHEREAS**, in 2014, inspired by Ted Stein's vision for an arts-
13 based nonprofit, Alexandra Stein received her M.A. in Arts
14 Administration at Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), and in
15 that same year the Jacksonville Arts and Music School (JAMS) was born
16 – an idea given form, a dream transcribed into legal language through
17 articles of incorporation and blessed with 501(c)(3) status; and

18 **WHEREAS**, on September 5, 2016, JAMS opened its doors to its
19 first students, the "JAMS Originals", who stepped across the threshold
20 carrying the hopes of a city, embarking on a mission "to empower the
21 creative leaders of tomorrow"; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the Board of JAMS appointed Jason A. Peoples as
23 Executive Director, with his wife, Tori, as partner in purpose,
24 together transforming JAMS into a powerhouse of creative youth
25 development where enrollment surged, summer intensives thrived, and
26 students found their places in four core disciplines: Dance, Film,
27 Music, and Visual Arts. From these seeds, an orchard of leadership
28 was planted; and

29 **WHEREAS**, through collaboration with the City of Jacksonville's
30 Kids Hope Alliance, JAMS expanded its reach, deepening its impact on
31 children and families. With the generous support of the Florida Blue

1 Foundation and Delores Barr Weaver, JAMS underwent a renaissance of
2 space, a renovation that yielded nearly 12,000 square feet of
3 possibility. Within those walls, the "JAMS 100" was born - a flagship
4 program where artistry and discipline braid together the next
5 generation of leaders; and

6 **WHEREAS**, JAMS programming now stands as a model for creative
7 education across the Southeast: summer camps for 4th-12th graders,
8 the JAMS 100 after-school and summer intensive, Artworks College &
9 Career Readiness, and Created - a professional development summit for
10 arts educators. Each program is not just a class or a camp, but a
11 declaration: art is leadership, creativity is power, and expression
12 is the engine of transformation; and

13 **WHEREAS**, JAMS has created stages, galleries, and platforms where
14 youth voices rise into the rafters of our city, filling Jacksonville
15 with performances, exhibitions, and civic engagement. Through annual
16 traditions like the "What A Leader" competition, students sharpen not
17 just their talent, but their confidence, critical thinking,
18 communication, and professionalism - proving the arts are not a
19 pastime, but a pathway; and

20 **WHEREAS**, after a decade of vision and victories, JAMS is
21 celebrating its 10th Anniversary with "JAMS: A Decade in Motion Gala"
22 on November 6, 2025, a celebration not only of music, dance, film,
23 and art, but of endurance, resilience, and leadership cultivated
24 through creativity; and

25 **WHEREAS**, Jacksonville honors the founders who dreamed, the
26 leaders who built, the faculty and staff who serve, the alumni who
27 carry the mission into the world, the board members who guide, the
28 volunteers who stand in the gap, and the community partners who lift
29 the work higher; now therefore

30 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

31 **Section 1.** The City Council hereby commemorates the 10th

1 Anniversary of the Jacksonville Arts and Music School (JAMS) and
2 encourages all residents to join the celebration at "A Decade in
3 Motion Gala" on November 6, 2025. The City Council honors JAMS for
4 its unwavering dedication to arts education and its role in shaping
5 the leaders of tomorrow – leaders who do not simply follow, but
6 compose new symphonies of justice, innovation, and community.

7 **Section 2. Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become
8 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
9 without the Mayor's signature.

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11 Form Approved:

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13 /s/ Mary E. Staffopoulos

14 Office of General Counsel

15 Legislation Prepared By: Brandon Russell, City Council Research

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