

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-216

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

May 7, 2024

To recognize and honor the Folger Shakespeare Library, on the occasion of its reopening, for its continued efforts to preserve and celebrate the timeless works of William Shakespeare, and for its unwavering commitment to enriching the lives of countless individuals through the exploration of literature, history, and the arts in the District.

WHEREAS, the Folger Shakespeare Library, located on Capitol Hill, opened in 1932;

WHEREAS, the Folger Shakespeare Library was founded by Henry Clay Folger and Emily Jordan Folger, after decades of amassing the world's largest collection of Shakespeare materials and working closely with architect Paul Philippe Cret to create a marble building which reads like a book, and whose placement testified to the hope that the District would become the nation's civic and cultural capital;

WHEREAS, the Folger Shakespeare Library has undergone a major \$80.5 million renovation project to expand public space, improve accessibility, and provide a unique and engaging experience for visitors of all ages;

WHEREAS, the transformed Folger Shakespeare Library, reopening on Friday, June 21, 2024, will welcome visitors to new and reimagined spaces, including exhibition halls, a learning lab, lush gardens, and enhanced amenities such as a café and gift shop;

WHEREAS, the reopening of the Folger Shakespeare Library represents a golden opportunity to reintroduce itself to local, national, and international communities, showcasing the vast cultural resources and experiences it offers, thanks to the dedicated work and commitment of its staff and supporters;

WHEREAS, the Folger Shakespeare Library's newly designed exhibition spaces, including the Shakespeare Exhibition Hall and the Stuart and Mimi Rose Rare Book and Manuscript Exhibition Hall, provide a sanctuary for the renowned Shakespeare First Folios, inviting visitors of all backgrounds to embark on a journey of discovery and explore the profound impact of Shakespeare's works on our contemporary world;

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WHEREAS, the Folger Shakespeare Library has consulted with a diverse cross-section of the community, aiming to create a sense of belonging and inspiration for all who enter its doors, and to promote accessibility to cultural resources and experiences for all individuals, families, students, artists, and tourists alike;

WHEREAS, the new and reimagined gardens at the Folger Shakespeare Library, featuring native plants and those mentioned by Shakespeare himself, provide an inviting and relaxing environment for visitors, complemented by a new poem inscribed in marble by Rita Dove and the captivating artwork of contemporary artists such as Fred Wilson and Anke Neumann;

WHEREAS, with the reopening of the Folger Shakespeare Library on June 21, 2024, the Folger Shakespeare Library's thematic alignment of programming, exhibitions, performances, and humanities ensures a rich and immersive experience for all who attend, fostering a deeper connection between art and history; and

WHEREAS, the Folger Shakespeare Library's dedication to research and education continues with the establishment of study rooms and collaborative research spaces, providing scholars, researchers, and educators with unprecedented access to rare materials, and a welcoming reading room designed to inspire intellectual pursuits.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Folger Shakespeare Library Reopening Recognition Resolution of 2024”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and honors the Folger Shakespeare Library, on the occasion of its reopening, for its continued efforts to preserve and celebrate the timeless works of William Shakespeare, and for its unwavering commitment to enriching the lives of countless individuals through the exploration of literature, history, and the arts in the District.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.