

Janeese Lewis George

Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To celebrate the 46th anniversary of Zenith Gallery and recognize it for its contributions to the District of Columbia and the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area.

WHEREAS, Ward 4 resident Margery E. Goldberg, founder and director, opened Zenith Gallery on Rhode Island Avenue NW, March 1978 when she was 27 years old;

WHEREAS, since opening their doors, Zenith continues to represent artists from the Washington Area, national, and international artists;

WHEREAS, for over 46 years, Ms. Goldberg has been curating public, private, corporate, and institutional collections throughout the Washington D.C. tri-state area and nationally;

WHEREAS, by pushing boundaries, Zenith Gallery has grown to become one of Washington's foremost and longest running galleries, recognized for its striking mix of high-quality contemporary artworks in all media including paintings, indoor and outdoor sculpture, neon art, tapestries and mixed media and collage art, and photography that stimulate and engage. The gallery services have expanded to include high-quality acquisition, consulting, appraisal, and commissioning services to residential, corporate, and institutional clients including many DC Public Schools;

WHEREAS, Margery Goldberg received a BA in Fine Arts from George Washington University and studied woodworking, sculpture and silversmithing at the Rochester Institute of Technology where she was later a guest lecturer. Ms. Goldberg arrived in DC in 1968 from Rochester, New York. An art major, dance minor with a heavy dose of social activism. After college, Ms. Goldberg opened a woodworking studio in Georgetown, under the Whitehurst Freeway and produced sculptures, sculptural furniture, and commissioned art;

WHEREAS, Ms. Goldberg was one of the first woman in America with her own woodworking studio. After a fire left her Hayloft studio in ruins, she opened Zenith Gallery in a complex at 15th and Rhode Island Avenue NW, 50,000 square-foot property that had been the international school of law, 4 townhouses, a large three-story building that housed the Dance Exchange and Studio Theater and a carriage house where Zenith Gallery began which had her woodshop and several artists' studios. The gallery opened in 1978, 10 years after the riots decimated 14th Street. Soon after, 50 artists' studios were added which served as an

43 affordable haven for artists to work, live, show their work and support each other. After the
44 complex was closed in a zoning dispute the Zenith Gallery moved to 413 Seventh Street NW
45 for 24 years and was actively involved in the development and growth of the Penn Quarter
46 downtown business community and the building of the Capital One Arena which was then
47 the MCI Center;

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49 WHEREAS, In 2009, Zenith Gallery and The Zenith Community Arts Foundation
50 moved to Ms. Goldbergs home in Ward 4, which includes a two-story Gallery Salon, a
51 regular gallery in the lower level, a sculpture garden in front and an inground sculpture
52 garden in her former swimming pool. Zenith continues to host art exhibitions with artists
53 talks for noted and emerging artists at Zenith Gallery in upper northwest Washington;

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55 WHEREAS, as an accomplished artist, Goldberg has created more than 300 pieces of
56 sculpture, sculptured furniture and neon, now in private and public collections throughout the U.S.,
57 Canada and Europe. In addition to showing her work in her own gallery, she has been featured in
58 ten one-women shows in the Mid-Atlantic region and more than 40 group shows in 13 U.S. cities;

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60 WHEREAS, as a curator, Mrs. Goldberg has launched 450-plus shows for her own gallery
61 as well as traveling exhibitions, multiple Art League shows and more than 100 corporate
62 collections and projects, including major outdoor sculptures;

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64 WHEREAS, Ms. Goldberg established The Zenith Community Arts Foundation– a
65 Washington DC, non-profit 501C-3 organization in 2000. The Foundation is dedicated to
66 promoting art and fostering alliances between artists, businesses, non-profits, and public sector
67 organizations, using the transformative power of art to benefit the community particularly through
68 public art projects, education;

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70 WHEREAS, in 2020, ZCAF received a \$150,000 grant from events DC to build the
71 nation’s capital’s first mobile woodshop and a stationary woodshop. The mobile woodshop
72 goes to two schools teaching carpentry skills, math, and employability skills at Ballou Stay in
73 Ward 8 and Luke C. Moore Stay program in Ward 5; and

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75 WHEREAS, In 2023, ZCAF received another grant from Events DC to create a
76 traveling exhibition about the trees of DC. DC is the Tree capital of the country and along with
77 Casey trees this exhibition will be traveling around DC for the next few years. ZCAF and
78 Casey Trees produced eight arboreal panels, called “The Wonders of DC Trees.” These colorful
79 displays dramatize the significance of the urban canopy in the District of Columbia. They have
80 already appeared at the Kennedy Center and will eventually be featured in selected DC public
81 libraries, with a kickoff exhibition at Martin Luther King Library in April 2025.

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83 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
84 resolution may be cited as the “Zenith Gallery 46th Anniversary Ceremonial Recognition
85 Resolution of 2024”.

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87 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia recognizes and congratulates the Zenith
88 Gallery on its 46th anniversary and Zenith Community Arts Foundation on its 24 years, and
89 recognizes its success as a champion for the arts in the District.

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Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.