



HR0375

LRB104 13736 LAW 26458 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of Representatives wish to commend Carlos Hernandez Falcon for his work in the Puerto Rican arts community; and

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WHEREAS, Carlos Hernandez Falcon is a nationally recognized arts leader and cultural advocate with more than 30 years of experience in advancing Puerto Rican and Latino arts, education, and community development; and

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WHEREAS, Carlos Hernandez Falcon, born in Chicago to parents from Aguas Buenas, Puerto Rico, was raised in South Chicago and overcame early challenges to become a steadfast champion of youth and the arts; he holds degrees in urban planning and business management and has completed leadership programs at Northwestern University and Stanford University; and

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WHEREAS, Carlos Hernandez Falcon founded the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance (PRAA) in his home's basement in 1996 with a vision to preserve Puerto Rican heritage and uplift youth through culturally relevant arts programming; under his leadership as executive director for nearly 28 years, PRAA has grown into one of Chicago's most respected Latino cultural institutions, now serving over 30,000 individuals annually;

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1 and

2 WHEREAS, Carlos Hernandez Falcon has led the creation of
3 transformative programs, including tuition-free Cuatro and
4 guitar lessons, the Latin Music Project, and community events
5 such as the Emmy Award-winning National Cuatro Festival; his
6 leadership has been instrumental in fundraising efforts,
7 acquiring over \$2.5 million to restore a historic firehouse
8 into Chicago's first Puerto Rican music and arts center, and
9 he later launched a \$6 million expansion campaign; and

10 WHEREAS, Carlos Hernandez Falcon has forged major
11 partnerships with the Chicago Philharmonic, Lyric Opera, and
12 cultural organizations across the U.S. and Puerto Rico;
13 through initiatives such as Somos Un Solo Pueblo and Caribe
14 Clasico, he has brought together thousands in celebration of
15 shared Latino heritage; and

16 WHEREAS, Carlos Hernandez Falcon has also ensured the
17 preservation of Puerto Rican history through launching El
18 Archivo, a digital archive encompassing the history of Puerto
19 Rican migration, and through curating landmark exhibitions,
20 such as Ponce in Chicago and Colonial Portraits; his work has
21 also extended internationally through a PRAA satellite office
22 in Puerto Rico and aid efforts following Hurricane Maria; and

1 WHEREAS, Carlos Hernandez Falcon's civic impact has
2 included founding roles in ENRICH Chicago and the Chicago
3 Latino Theater Alliance and advisory roles for the City of
4 Chicago; his honors have included the Field Foundation's
5 Leaders for a New Chicago Award, Crain's Notable Latino
6 Leaders, and multiple cultural achievement awards; and

7 WHEREAS, Carlos Hernandez Falcon's work has been defined
8 by visionary leadership, cultural pride, and a deep belief in
9 the power of the arts to inspire, educate, and transform
10 communities; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
12 HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
13 we commend Carlos Hernandez Falcon for his work in the Puerto
14 Rican arts community, and we thank him for his continued
15 commitment to advancing the arts in the State and beyond; and
16 be it further

17 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
18 presented to Carlos Hernandez Falcon as an expression of our
19 esteem and respect.