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HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 792

Offered July 15, 2024

*Commending the Torpedo Factory Art Center.*

Patron—

WHEREAS, the Torpedo Factory Art Center, a preeminent cultural institution serving the Alexandria arts community and beyond, celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2024; and

WHEREAS, on May 7, 1974, Alexandria City Council approved a three-year pilot program proposed by The Art League to install artist studios in a former naval munitions factory along the Alexandria waterfront, an endeavor that would come to be known as the Torpedo Factory Art Center; and

WHEREAS, initially led by The Art League's president, Marian Van Landingham, the Torpedo Factory Art Center was subsequently helmed by its longest-serving director, Margaret Alderson, who guided the institution through its first decade and oversaw its major renovation in the early 1980s; and

WHEREAS, the Torpedo Factory Art Center has grown over the years to become the nation's largest collection of working artists' open studios under one roof, with more than 70 studios occupied by artists across various mediums, including painting, ceramics, photography, jewelry, stained glass, fiber, printmaking, and sculpture; and

WHEREAS, with its open studio format, the Torpedo Factory Art Center provides members of the public with the unique opportunity to engage with artists and observe the creative process first hand; and

WHEREAS, since 1987, Target Gallery has served as the Torpedo Factory Art Center's contemporary exhibition space, enabling the institution to support artists outside of its studios and to broaden its impact on the world of contemporary art; and

WHEREAS, formerly overseen by the City of Alexandria and then by the Torpedo Factory Artists Association and the Torpedo Factory Art Center Board, the Torpedo Factory Art Center has been officially managed by the City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts since 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Torpedo Factory Art Center was founded on a principle of providing low-cost studio space to artists to enable them to thrive, a commitment that the institution continues to uphold to this day; and

WHEREAS, through its artist residencies, exhibitions, and other programming, the Torpedo Factory Art Center has become the crown jewel of the Alexandria arts scene and an important part of what makes the city a wonderful place to live, work, and be creative; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, That the Torpedo Factory Art Center of Alexandria hereby be commended on the occasion of its 50th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Torpedo Factory Art Center as an expression of the House of Delegates' respect for the institution's legacy of service and best wishes for its continued success.