

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Frazier, Michel,  
Barnett, Hopson, Jackson (11th), Thomas,  
McDaniel

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 537

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE  
2 MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF THE MISSISSIPPI  
3 BOOK FESTIVAL HOLLY LANGE AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2022 GOVERNOR'S  
4 ARTS AWARD GOVERNOR'S CHOICE.

5 WHEREAS, the Governor's Arts Awards Program has announced its  
6 2022 recipients, which includes the Founding Director of the  
7 Mississippi Book Festival Holly Lange as the 2022 Governor's Arts  
8 Award Governor's Choice; and

9 WHEREAS, established in 1988, Governor's Arts Awards are  
10 given to individuals and organizations to recognize outstanding  
11 work in the artistic disciplines, as well as arts-based community  
12 development and arts patronage in Mississippi. The awards are  
13 presented in partnership with the Governor's Office and signify  
14 the important relationship between government and the arts; and

15 WHEREAS, born and raised in Austin, Texas, Holly Powell Lange  
16 has already made a lasting imprint on her adopted State of  
17 Mississippi, particularly in the realm of the arts. Her acumen at  
18 planning events and running nonprofit organizations has led to a  
19 steady stream of high-profile projects; and



20           WHEREAS, in the early part of the 21st Century, Lange ran two  
21 popular annual creative events in Jackson: the Jubilee! JAM Music  
22 and Arts Festival and the emerging Crossroads Film Festival.  
23 Holly Lange parlayed this experience into a highly successful  
24 business assisting arts and cultural organizations in opening  
25 museums and promoting their missions. Some of the large-scale  
26 museum openings Holly helped oversee include the B.B. King Museum  
27 in Indianola, the Institute of Southern Jewish Life in Jackson,  
28 and the Mississippi Civil Rights and History Museums. Known for  
29 her energy and enthusiasm, Lange has served on the Boards of the  
30 Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, the Mississippi Museum of Art,  
31 Millsaps College, and the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, among  
32 others; and

33           WHEREAS, in 2015, Holly Lange became the Founding Director of  
34 the project that has come to define her career in arts management:  
35 the Mississippi Book Festival. The self-described "Literary Lawn  
36 Party" has become one of the most popular annual events in the  
37 state. Some of the biggest names in literature and popular  
38 culture have appeared at the Mississippi Book Festival, including  
39 Angie Thomas, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, John  
40 Grisham, Joyce Carol Oates, Julia Reed, Salman Rushdie, Librarian  
41 of Congress Carla Hayden, and children's Author Dav Pilkey. In  
42 2019, more than 9,000 people attended the festival, which featured  
43 170 authors on 47 official panels. Adding in other events leading  
44 up to the weekend, that year's festival alone reached more than



45 15,000 people. The festival's audience is actually much larger,  
46 considering many of the panels are broadcast nationally on C-SPAN  
47 and are available online; and

48 WHEREAS, in 2021, Lange stepped down as Executive Director of  
49 the Mississippi Book Festival to focus on her longtime business,  
50 Lange Management. Holly and her husband, Alan, have two sons,  
51 Ford and Jake; and

52 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute and  
53 express appreciation for the talent of a Mississippi Arts and  
54 Nonprofit Leader who has made Mississippi a better place and  
55 exemplifies the artistic/literary traditions of our great state:

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
57 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
58 we do hereby extend the recognition of the Mississippi Legislature  
59 to Holly Lange, recipient of the 2022 Governor's Arts Award  
60 Governor's Choice, and extend our congratulations to an  
61 artistic-literary leader on this auspicious occasion.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
63 Holly Lange as part of the Governor's Arts Awards presentation and  
64 made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

