

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Jordan, Simmons  
(13th), Barnett, Butler (38th), Jackson  
(11th), Thomas

To: Rules

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 540

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE  
2 MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO MYRNA COLLEY-LEE AS THE RECIPIENT OF  
3 THE 2022 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN COSTUME DESIGN  
4 AND ARTS PATRON.

5 WHEREAS, the Governor's Arts Awards Program has announced its  
6 2022 recipients, which include Myrna Colley-Lee for Excellence in  
7 Costume Design and Arts Patron; and

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

14 WHEREAS, Myrna Colley-Lee is an internationally known Costume  
15 Designer as well as a Philanthropist, Arts Advocate and Patron.  
16 Credited as one of the foremost costume designers in the Black  
17 Theatre Movement, she started her career in the late 1960s and  
18 remains active as a designer today; and



19           WHEREAS, a native of North Carolina, Colley-Lee received a  
20 Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Education from the University of  
21 North Carolina and an Master of Fine Arts in Scenic and Costume  
22 Design from Temple University. Since the late 1960s, she has  
23 worked in the theatre world where she has been credited in dozens  
24 of plays as an Art Director, Set Designer and Costume Designer.  
25 Myrna's stage work has taken her across the United States,  
26 including theatres in St. Louis, Milwaukee, New York City,  
27 Seattle, and her home state of Mississippi; and

28           WHEREAS, Myrna has also served as a Costume Designer, Art  
29 Director, and Set Designer for film productions. She has received  
30 numerous awards, including Outstanding Costume Design from the  
31 National Black Theatre Festival and the Mississippi Institute of  
32 Arts and Letters Lifetime Achievement Award, among others. A  
33 permanent collection of her clothing and costumes is held by the  
34 Mississippi State University Library; and

35           WHEREAS, a longtime resident of Charleston, Mississippi,  
36 Myrna Colley-Lee has proudly called Tallahatchie County her home  
37 even though the in-demand Costume Designer has plied her trade on  
38 stages and sets around the country; and

39           WHEREAS, Myrna's costume design work has been featured at  
40 prestigious exhibitions in San Antonio, Detroit, and at the  
41 Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson. She was inducted as a  
42 Foundation Member of Phi Beta Kappa at Mississippi State



43 University, where she received an Honorary Doctorate of Creative  
44 Arts Degree; and

45 WHEREAS, Myrna was also a founding member of Son-Edna, an  
46 organization that highlighted African-American writers, the Rock  
47 River Foundation, and the Charleston Arts and Revitalization  
48 Effort in her hometown. She was a long-standing member of the  
49 Board of the Mississippi Arts Commission; and

50 WHEREAS, Ms. Colley-Lee's most recent board appointments  
51 include the Mississippi Museum of Art and the National Board for  
52 the Center for Art and Public Exchange. After nearly six decades  
53 in theatre, she continues to work as a Costume Designer, through  
54 her company Gladrags Designs; and

55 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute and  
56 express appreciation for the talent of a World-Class Mississippi  
57 Costume Designer and Arts Patron who has made Mississippi a better  
58 place and exemplifies the artistic traditions of our great state:

59 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
60 MISSISSIPPI, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN, That  
61 we do hereby extend the recognition of the Mississippi Legislature  
62 to Myrna Colley-Lee, the recipient of the 2022 Governor's Arts  
63 Award for Excellence in Costume Design and Arts Patron, and extend  
64 our congratulations to this international designer on this  
65 auspicious occasion.



66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
67 Myrna Colley-Lee as part of the Governor's Arts Awards  
68 presentation and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

