

By: Senator(s) Horhn, Hopson, Michel

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 22

1 A RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE RECOGNITION OF THE MISSISSIPPI  
2 SENATE FOR THE OUTSTANDING ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP OF LONGTIME  
3 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MISSISSIPPI ARTS COMMISSION AND THE  
4 MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF ART BETSY BRADLEY AS RECIPIENT OF THE 2023  
5 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN VISUAL ARTS AND COMMUNITY.

6 WHEREAS, the Governor's Arts Awards Program has announced its  
7 2023 recipients, which include veteran Director of the Mississippi  
8 Arts Commission and Museum of Art Betsy Bradley as the 2023  
9 Governor's Arts Award for Leadership in Visual Arts and Community;  
10 and

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

17 WHEREAS, Betsy Bradley has devoted her professional life to  
18 the advancement of the arts and artists in our state. With just  
19 the right mix of chutzpah and southern graces, she has inspired



20 the state's citizens across schools, generations, and cultures to  
21 appreciate the arts and, in the process, has enlarged their vision  
22 of the arts; and

23 WHEREAS, Bradley was appointed Director of the Mississippi  
24 Museum of Art (MMA) in 2001. In 2016, she led the museum to  
25 accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums' Accreditation  
26 Commission. Only 1,056 of the 35,000 museums nationwide have  
27 merited this honor, the authoritative mark of distinction in the  
28 museum field; and

29 WHEREAS, in 2017, she introduced the Center for Arts and  
30 Public Exchange (CAPE). Funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation,  
31 this initiative hosts residencies for both Mississippi-based and  
32 nationally recognized artists to work with communities in  
33 responding to local issues. CAPE's purpose is to bring art and  
34 communities together to ignite conversations that address social  
35 inequities in our state; and

36 WHEREAS, Bradley shepherded two capital campaigns, yielding  
37 \$20 million to renovate the present museum space and create the  
38 Art Garden, the first new public green space in downtown Jackson  
39 since the 1970s. She regularly works in partnership with  
40 cultural, social service, and history organizations to create  
41 opportunities for mutually beneficial collaborations. Bradley has  
42 worked to make the visual arts accessible to young persons and  
43 underserved communities. Through her efforts, the MMA has  
44 collaborated with the Mississippi Chapter of the Alzheimer's



45 Association, Midtown Partners and with Jackson State University,  
46 Millsaps College, Tougaloo College and Belhaven University; and

47 WHEREAS, her work has resulted in prestigious federal and  
48 national foundation grant awards and recognition for the museum  
49 itself, including the 2008 Governor's Arts Award; and

50 WHEREAS, prior to taking the helm at the museum, Bradley  
51 served as the Executive Director of the Mississippi Arts  
52 Commission. Bradley was elected to membership in the Association  
53 of Art Museum Directors in 2012; and

54 WHEREAS, she has served on the boards of Americans for the  
55 Arts, the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, and the  
56 Southern Arts Federation. She also served on the Steering Council  
57 for the Mississippi Economic Council's Blueprint Mississippi  
58 Project, the 50th Reunion of the Mississippi Freedom Riders, and  
59 the Executive Committee of Downtown Jackson Partners. The  
60 Governor appointed her to the Advisory Panel of the Mississippi  
61 School for the Arts and the Mississippi Commission for  
62 Volunteerism; and

63 WHEREAS, Bradley is married to Robert Langford. They have  
64 two adult children, Martha and William; and

65 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we pay tribute and  
66 express appreciation for the artistic vision of a Mississippi Arts  
67 and Nonprofit Leader who has made Mississippi a better place and  
68 exemplifies the artistic traditions of our great state:



69           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF  
70 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby extend the recognition of the  
71 Mississippi Senate for the outstanding artistic leadership of  
72 longtime Executive Director of the Mississippi Arts Commission and  
73 the Mississippi Museum of Art Betsy Bradley as recipient of the  
74 2023 Governor's Arts Award for Leadership in Visual Arts and  
75 Community and our congratulations to an artistic and community  
76 leader on this auspicious occasion.

77           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to  
78 Betsy Bradley as part of the Governor's Arts Awards presentation  
79 and made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

