

RESOLUTION NUMBER 24

Mary Strauss

WHEREAS, we have been apprised that Mary Strauss will be receiving the Arts Award from the St. Louis Community Empowerment Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Mary Strauss is best known to St. Louis audiences as the woman, along with her late husband Leon, who saved the historic St. Louis Fox Theatre, a 4,500-seat restored movie palace, and helped establish Grand Center, St. Louis' arts and entertain district. Mary spearheaded restoration of the Fabulous Fox in 1981, serving as Director of Restoration; and

WHEREAS, as one of the co-owners of the Fox Theatre and Fox Theatricals, she has won Tony Awards as one of the Producers for *Death of a Salesman* (2000), *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* (2001), and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (2002). Other Fox Theatricals Broadway productions have included *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *'Night Mother*, and *Legally Blonde – the Musical*, and *The Seagull*. Mrs. Strauss also co-authored a book on the history of the Fox Theatre, *The Fabulous Fox – St. Louis*; and

WHEREAS, Mary was the major underwriter and an active participant in the Sheldon Art Galleries' Centennial Celebration of Josephine Baker in 2006. The exhibition *Josephine Baker: Image & Icon* traced the entertainer's important and innovative contributions to the Jazz Age and her role as dancer, singer, mother, author and vocal civil rights activist. When *Josephine Baker: Image & Icon* closed in St. Louis, the Sheldon exhibit moved to the National Portrait Gallery in Washington DC from November 2006-March 2007; and

WHEREAS, Mary served as an Executive Producer of Civil Pictures' multiple award-winning documentary film *The Gateway Arch: A Reflection of America* which had its World Premiere at the Fox Theatre in August 2006. Narrated by Kevin Kline, *The Gateway Arch: A Reflection of America* aired nationally on PBS stations. Mrs. Strauss provided voice-over and production support for Civil Pictures' multiple-award winning documentary *The World's Greatest Fair*. Mary served as Producer of Art Access' documentary film *EROICA!* which aired for three years on the national PBS program *Independent Lens* and has screened at Film Festivals across the country and at American Embassies around the World; and

WHEREAS, Mary has spent her life promoting and supporting the Arts in St. Louis. Today she serves as the President of Cabaret St. Louis, the Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation and Art Access, Inc., on the Board of Trustees for the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra and the St. Louis Art Museum; on the Boards of Dance St. Louis, Cinema St. Louis/the St. Louis International Film Festival, Grand Center, the KFUE Radio Arts Board, and Saint Louis Ballet; as Co-Chair of the KETC/Channel 9 Visionary Arts Society; and on the Advisory Board of COCA. Mary is also a member of the National Society of Arts and Letters.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Aldermen of the City of St. Louis that we pause in our deliberations to recognize Mary Strauss and we wish her continued success, achievement and accomplishment and we further direct the Clerk of this Board to spread a copy of this Resolution across the minutes of these proceedings and to prepare a commemorative copy to the end that it may be presented to our honorees at a time and place deemed appropriate by the Sponsor.

Introduced on the 1st day of May, 2009 by:

Honorable Marlene Davis, Alderman 19th Ward

Adopted this the 1st day of May, 2009 as attested by:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen