

METROPOLITAN EXPOSITION RECREATION COMMISSION

Resolution No. 17-28

For the purpose of recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Keller Auditorium.

WHEREAS, the Portland Municipal Auditorium was built in Portland, Oregon, during 1916-1917 and opened on July 4, 1917; and

WHEREAS, the brand new public auditorium was refitted as a temporary hospital in order to receive Spanish Influenza cases in October 1918; and

WHEREAS, the building was used as Red Cross disaster headquarters and nursery for the Vanport Flood response in 1948; and

WHEREAS, the auditorium was renamed as the Civic Auditorium in 1966 and later the Keller Auditorium in 2000 in honor of a \$1.5 million renovation donation by Richard B. Keller; and

WHEREAS, the auditorium was the site of several historical speeches given by national politicians including President Calvin Coolidge in August of 1922; Adlai Stevenson in October 1956; President Eisenhower in 1958; Senator John F. Kennedy and Vice President Richard Nixon in 1960; and

WHEREAS, the auditorium was the site of several historical cultural events including performances by Richard Crooks, the first American-born lead tenor for the Metropolitan Opera, in 1934; Paul Robeson in November 1940, an event which was announced in The Oregonian with the headline "Negro Singer Coming Here"; and a vocal performance by Margaret Truman, daughter of President Harry Truman, in 1952; and

WHEREAS, the Keller Auditorium is the renowned performing arts center for the city of Portland, Oregon and home to several resident performing arts companies including the Portland Opera and The Oregon Ballet Theater; and

WHEREAS, audiences continue to enjoy Broadway productions, ballet, operas, family events and more at the Keller Auditorium, making it fundamental to the cultural heart of the City of Portland; and

WHEREAS, the Keller Auditorium provides hundreds of thousands of dollars in economic impact on the Portland metropolitan area each year; and

WHEREAS, Metro Council wishes to recognize that 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the Keller Auditorium; now therefore,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Metropolitan Exposition Recreation Commission officially recognizes and celebrates the 100th anniversary of the Keller Auditorium.

Adopted by the Commission on October 4, 2017.

Approved as to form:
Alison R. Kean, Metro Attorney

Kara Abundance-Phillips
Chair

By: 
Nathan A. S. Sykes, Deputy Metro Attorney

Richard M. Kyreff
Secretary/Treasurer