

Proclamation



FULTON COUNTY

WHEREAS,

Nena Gilreath earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the North Carolina School of the Arts and danced with the Ruth Mitchell Dance Theatre in Atlanta, the Dance Theatre of Harlem, and the Atlanta Ballet; and



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WHEREAS,

Nena returned to Atlanta in 1988 to join the Atlanta Ballet, where she continued to perform such ballets as Giselle, Serenade, Stars and Stripes, and Coppelia, and she performed the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy for Artistry in Motion in Detroit, Michigan, and worked with the Ebony Dance Theatre in Columbia, South Carolina; and



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WHEREAS,

while performing for the Atlanta Ballet and the Heartstring National Tour benefiting AIDS research, Nena's interest in creating outreach programs for children was greatly enhanced; and



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WHEREAS,

Nena created the Beyond the Barre program for leadership and empowerment for young women, she is the Facilities and Program Supervisor at East Athens Educational Dance Center, and she is a guest Ballet Instructor at the University of Georgia; and



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WHEREAS,

Nena and her husband, choreographer Waverly T. Lucas, II, created the Ballethnic Dance Company located in East Point, Georgia, in January 1990 and since its birth, Nena has implemented numerous outreach programs including the BUDDY Project through the Atlanta Project, which served as a model for the existing Danseur Development Project; Ballethnic is one of three Black professional ballet companies to perform in the Reframing the Narrative Ballet Performances at the Kennedy Center for the Arts;



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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Nena Gilreath for her dedication to the art of dance and for her contributions to the arts and culture community, and does hereby proclaim Tuesday, June 13, 2023 as "**NENA GILREATH APPRECIATION DAY**" in Fulton County, Georgia.

Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Commissioner

Attest:

Clerk to the Commission

F U L T O N C O U N T Y