

Proclamation



WHEREAS,

Ballethnic Dance Company, Inc. is a classically trained, culturally diverse ballet company that blends traditional ballet with the artistic influences of other ethnic cultures – especially African American – to produce unique and exciting dance performances, including the annual fan favorite, Urban Nutcracker; and



WHEREAS,

the Ballethnic Dance Company was founded on January 15, 1990 by Nena Gilreath and Waverly T. Lucas II, who met in New York City while dancing with Dance Theatre of Harlem, making Ballethnic the second Black-founded professional Ballet Company, and the first by a Black female; and



WHEREAS,

the professional company of six dancers was formed and began its history on the campus of Spelman College, and is now located in the city of East Point in its own studio, creating original works and opportunities influenced by African American and African diasporic culture; and



WHEREAS,

Ballethnic has performed extensively, from the Southeast United States to New York City's Lincoln Center, the Bermuda Arts Festival, and received the only commission from the 1996 Cultural Olympiad; and



WHEREAS,

Ballethnic continues to produce new works each season that speaks to its unique fusion of Ballet infused with African Dance concepts and choreography, and continues its legacy of inspiring future generations of culturally diverse dancers;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Fulton County Board of Commissioners recognizes Ballethnic Dance for its significant contribution to the arts and culture landscape, and decades of entertainment and cultural diversity, and does hereby proclaim Wednesday, December 10, 2025 as **"BALLETHNIC DANCE COMPANY, INC. APPRECIATION DAY"** in Fulton County, Georgia.

Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Attest:

Commissioner

Clerk to the Commission

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