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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 915

Offered February 16, 2009

Commending the School of the Performing Arts in the Richmond Community.

Patrons—O'Bannon, Hall, Loupassi and Massie; Senators: Stosch and Watkins

WHEREAS, the School of the Performing Arts in the Richmond Community, known as SPARC, was founded in 1981; and

WHEREAS, young people across the Commonwealth between the ages of five and 18 learn valuable theater and life skills in a graduated curriculum of classes, summer camps, and theater arts programs at venues in the Richmond metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, SPARC provides free arts programs in the schools and at after-school programs throughout area schools and at community centers; and

WHEREAS, SPARC has made a commitment never to turn away any interested, cooperative children from classes because of their inability to pay tuition and offers generous scholarship support for families in need of financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, SPARC is now Virginia's largest community-based theater training program for young people and serves young people in the performing arts throughout Virginia in its two statewide programs, New Voices for the Theater and Poetry Out Loud; and

WHEREAS, SPARC is recognized for the quality of its regional professionally staged musical theater productions for young actors, its prominent teaching artists, and the valuable communication and presentation skills it offers to all young people; and

WHEREAS, SPARC students appear frequently on local professional stages, in television and radio commercials, and in feature films produced in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, SPARC alumni have been recognized for their national achievements on Broadway stages, in regional theater, in the fields of popular music and literary arts, in business, and the professions; and

WHEREAS, SPARC, considered Virginia's premier theater arts training program for young people, purchased in 2008 a home at 2106 North Hamilton Street in Richmond to create the new SPARC Center for Performing Arts Education; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend and congratulate the School of the Performing Arts in the Richmond Community, known as SPARC, for its outstanding service to the people of the City of Richmond and the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the School of the Performing Arts in the Richmond Community as an expression of the General Assembly's gratitude to the school for its commitment to the arts and the young people of Virginia.

INTRODUCED

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