



- WHEREAS, Renowned artist, Mr. John T. Biggers, was born on April 13, 1924, on West Davidson Ave., in Gastonia's Highland Community, in a home built by his father, Paul Biggers. While his earliest creative memories were formed in Gastonia, he studied at Lincoln Academy in Kings Mountain, N.C., at Hampton University, Virginia, and received his PhD from Penn State University; and,
- WHEREAS, Mr. Biggers founded the Art Department at Texas Southern University in 1949, where he inspired a number of prominent 20th-century artists, including Maya Angelou who, in 1994, requested him to illustrate her poem, "Our Grandmothers"; and,
- WHEREAS, his murals can be seen in North Carolina at Winston Salem State University, and the North Carolina State Legislators Building, and his artwork is exhibited nationally at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Columbia Museum of Art, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, and many more; and,
- WHEREAS, the Gaston County Museum of Art & History has expressed a keen interest in collecting the artwork of this prominent 20th-century American artist, and Mrs. Ina O. Biggers, wife of the late James C. Biggers, artist and educator of generations of Gaston County student artists, recognized the Museum's intentions to collect, preserve, and educate Gaston County and the region on the importance of his contributions to the field of 20th-century art and African American art in particular; and,
- WHEREAS, Mrs. Biggers arranged for Mr. David Hales, Executor of the estate of Mrs. Hazel Hales Biggers, late wife of John T. Biggers, to donate any of his remaining artwork, his student's artwork, and his private collection, at no cost to the Museum; and,
- WHEREAS, the extended family of John T. Biggers so generously allowed the Museum Director, Alexandria Pizza, to choose works of art for the Museum's permanent collection from the Biggers' Family Home in Fayetteville, North Carolina, that span the length of John T. Biggers' distinguished artistic career.
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners, that the family of John T. Biggers and Hazel Hales Biggers, namely:

Ina O. Biggers

James Converse Biggers, III

John Robert Biggers, Sr.

David Hales

be thanked and publicly commended for the donation of original works of art by John T. Biggers to the Gaston County Museum of Art & History, and further recognizes that this significant and ground-breaking donation will afford future generations the transformational power of art, to which Mr. John T. Biggers dedicated his life's work.

Chad Brown, Chairman

Cathy Cloninger

Kim Johnson

Allen R. Fraley

Tom Keigher

Bob Hovis, Vice-Chairman

Ronald E. Worley

To be Adopted this 28th Day of November 2023