



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



Gaston County

Gaston County
Board of Commissioners
www.gastongov.com

Museum of Art & History

Board Action

File #: 23-540

Commissioner Cloninger - Museum of Art & History - Commendation - To Commend the Family of John T. Biggers and Hazel Hales Biggers, Including Ina O. Biggers, James Converse Biggers III, John Robert Biggers Sr., and David Hales for the Donation of Original Works of Art by John T. Biggers to the Gaston County Museum of Art & History

STAFF CONTACT

Alexandrea Pizza - Museum of Art & History - 704-922-7681

BUDGET IMPACT

No budget impact.

BUDGET ORDINANCE IMPACT

No budget ordinance impact.

BACKGROUND

Mrs. Ina O. Biggers arranged for David Hales, executor of the estate of Hazel Hales Biggers, late wife of John T. Biggers, to donate at no cost, any remaining artwork of John T. Biggers, his student's artwork, and his private collection to the Gaston County Museum of Art & History at the discretion of museum director Alexandrea Pizza on September 18, 2023 at the Biggers' family home in Fayetteville, N.C.; and the extended family of John T. Biggers so generously offered to allow the Gaston County Museum of Art & History the opportunity to choose works of art for the museum's permanent collection that span the length of John T. Biggers' artistic career, and show his creative process and his unique ties to his birthplace of Gastonia. Donation of this significant and ground-breaking gift is to be commended, and by this donation, future generations will have the gift of the transformational power of art that John T. Biggers believed in and dedicated his life's work to.

POLICY IMPACT

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

Commendation

DO NOT TYPE BELOW THIS LINE

I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

NO.	DATE	M1	M2	CBrown	CCloninger	AFraley	BHovis	KJohnson	TKeigher	RWorley	Vote
2023-401	11/28/2023	RW	BH	A	A	A	A	A	AB	A	U

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