
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 90 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY ACOSTA, MILLARD, THOMAS, BISHOP, SCHWEYER, BOYLE,
KIRKLAND, KINSEY, V. BROWN, SCHREIBER, COHEN, WHEATLEY,
YOUNGBLOOD, HARHART, C. PARKER, McNEILL, CALTAGIRONE,
READSHAW, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, WATSON, DAVIDSON, D. COSTA,
FARINA, BROWNLEE, MAHONEY AND GINGRICH, FEBRUARY 17, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
FEBRUARY 17, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring the work, activism, leadership and
2 courage of Frances P. Aulston of the City of Philadelphia
3 during "Black History Month 2015."

4 WHEREAS, Frances "Fran" Aulston is a seasoned community
5 leader, activist and former research librarian for the Free
6 Library of Philadelphia; and

7 WHEREAS, An educator and cultural historian, Ms. Aulston is a
8 graduate of Antioch University and Drexel University with a
9 bachelor of arts degree in human services and a master's degree
10 in library science, respectively; and

11 WHEREAS, Ms. Aulston, with the assistance of several artists,
12 founded the West Philadelphia Cultural Alliance (WPCA) in 1984;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, WPCA's mission is to cultivate interest and support
15 for the arts in West Philadelphia, increase the visibility of
16 the community's cultural resources, encourage the professional

1 development of local artists and promote positive social change;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, WPCA's three core values are collaboration,
4 leadership and respect; and

5 WHEREAS, As president and chief executive officer of WPCA,
6 Ms. Aulston has worked with more than 80 organizations,
7 government agencies and educational institutions to promote the
8 arts and local artists while building community through the
9 arts; and

10 WHEREAS, The WPCA membership is multicultural and multiethnic
11 and reflects the social and professional diversity of the City
12 of Philadelphia; and

13 WHEREAS, WPCA is one of the most respected cultural and
14 community organizations in the City of Philadelphia; and

15 WHEREAS, For Ms. Aulston, the WPCA has been "a ministry to
16 encourage families, especially children, to appreciate,
17 participate in, and actively support the arts"; and

18 WHEREAS, Ms. Aulston believes that awareness of cultural
19 contributions in our communities makes better citizens for those
20 communities and for the world; and

21 WHEREAS, Under Ms. Aulston's leadership, WPCA initiated a
22 campaign recognizing the work of Paul Leroy Robeson, Esquire, as
23 a scholar, lawyer, artist and activist during the Civil Rights
24 Movement and ensuring that his legacy not be forgotten; and

25 WHEREAS, Ms. Aulston was instrumental in the successful
26 designation of Paul Robeson's last residence, 4951 Walnut Street
27 in the City of Philadelphia, as a historic place; and

28 WHEREAS, In 1991, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum
29 Commission declared the Paul Robeson House a historical
30 landmark; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2000, the National Trust for Historic
2 Preservation designated the Paul Robeson House as an Official
3 Project of Save America's Treasures; and

4 WHEREAS, The Paul Robeson House has been designated as a
5 National Historical Site in the National Register of Historic
6 Places and is eligible for National Landmark Status; and

7 WHEREAS, Ms. Aulston is currently working to renovate the
8 Paul Robeson House, which is expected to make the Philadelphia
9 residence the most historically significant property in the
10 United States associated with Paul Robeson; and

11 WHEREAS, Ms. Aulston considers the restoration of Paul
12 Robeson's Philadelphia home as one of the community activities
13 of which she is most proud; and

14 WHEREAS, Ms. Aulston envisions the Paul Robeson House "as an
15 institute of civic responsibility, where the community will come
16 and learn and recognize that we can cultivate leaders, not just
17 for our time but for generations to come"; and

18 WHEREAS, Ms. Aulston is a founding member of the West
19 Philadelphia Partners for the Arts, known as ArtsWest; and

20 WHEREAS, Ms. Aulston currently serves on the board of
21 directors of the Mann Music Center for the Performing Arts, the
22 TEC Community Development Corporation, the Wynnefield Residents
23 Association and the West Branch of the YMCA; and

24 WHEREAS, Ms. Aulston is a past board member of the Community
25 College of Philadelphia, the West Philadelphia Branch of
26 Settlement Music School, the Philadelphia Orchestra's Cultural
27 Diversity Council, Friends of the Free Library, Philadelphia
28 Arts in Education Partnership, Dignity Housing and the Mayor's
29 Cultural Advisory Board; and

30 WHEREAS, Ms. Aulston has lectured at events sponsored by the

1 University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work, the African
2 American Museum of Philadelphia, the Free Library of
3 Philadelphia, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the
4 Philadelphia Chapter of the National Society of Fundraising
5 Executives; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2000, in recognition of her leadership, activism
7 and accomplishments, Ms. Aulston was named the first recipient
8 of the Community College of Philadelphia Community Leadership
9 Award; and

10 WHEREAS, Ms. Aulston's numerous other awards and citations
11 include the 1997 National Council of Negro Women Community
12 Leader Award, the Girl Scouts of Greater Philadelphia Women in
13 the Arts Award, the Philadelphia Daily News Outstanding
14 Community Program Award, the League of Women Voters Living the
15 Spirit of the Constitution Award and the Allstate Outstanding
16 Leadership Award; and

17 WHEREAS, Ms. Aulston is a recent recipient of the Pioneer
18 Award, given by the Philadelphia Multicultural Affairs Congress
19 to individuals who have overcome obstacles in dedication to
20 their mission; and

21 WHEREAS, Ms. Aulston believes that the "economic and social
22 health of a community is directly related to that community's
23 commitment to support an appreciation of the arts"; and

24 WHEREAS, Ms. Aulston is a proud and ever faithful member of
25 the Pinn Memorial Baptist Church; and

26 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives recognizes Ms.
27 Aulston's tireless dedication to the City of Philadelphia and
28 her lifelong commitment to the arts and social advocacy;
29 therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and

1 honor the work, activism, leadership and courage of Frances P.
2 Aulston of the City of Philadelphia during "Black History Month
3 2015"; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That, during this time of celebration and attendant
5 recognition of the contributions of people of color to the
6 canvas of American life, the House of Representatives extend
7 heartfelt appreciation to Ms. Aulston for her cultural and civic
8 leadership and her lifelong commitment to the arts and social
9 advocacy in the City of Philadelphia and nationwide.