

Whereas public support of the arts helps ensure that all Texans have access to art, regardless of economic status, education, geographic location, level of artistic talent, or special needs. People attend arts events – from music performances to museum exhibits to craft fairs – because they find such experiences enjoyable and culturally enriching. Steady interest in and attendance at arts events throughout the state indicates that the intrinsic benefits gained from the arts have importance to Texans;* and

Whereas support of the arts helps stimulate economic development in the state. The availability of cultural resources and opportunities helps attract and retain businesses to Texas, since companies and workers consider quality of life – including the arts – an important factor when deciding whether to relocate to a Texas community or another state. Additionally, the arts play a role in attracting tourists to Texas, helping tourism, a \$200 billion dollar industry, stay one of the top industries driving the Texas economy;* and

Whereas Waller County residents have a long history of creating and supporting the arts in and at: schools, churches, clubs, museums, libraries, Prairie View A&M University, the Waller County Fair, and in their individual homes, businesses, and professions; and

Whereas Waller County is currently the fastest growing county in Texas with many new citizens arriving daily who are unfamiliar with the history of their county; and

Whereas Waller County is soon to complete all remaining construction of the 2025/2026 Waller County Courthouse, and said edifice has also been celebrated both locally and state-wide for its design;** and

Whereas the Texas Legislature has recognized the importance of historical objects and various types of art being collected and displayed by counties in that the Legislature has authorized counties under Section 331.002 of the *Texas Local Government Code* to acquire by gift or purchase, individually or in a collection, any historic book, painting, sculpture, coin, or other object or collection of historical significance to the county; and

Whereas the soon to be completed third floor of the Waller County Courthouse will house courtrooms and chambers for judges; and

Whereas the publicly accessible areas of said third floor will routinely serve as waiting areas of jurors and potential jurors and other members of the public who are involved with the local justice system; and

Whereas the publicly accessible areas of said third floor will contain multiple locations for the purpose of exhibiting art or other objects or collections of historical significance to the county; and

Whereas the first, second, and fourth floors of the Waller County Courthouse now contain exceptional displays of photographs and exhibits commemorating Waller County's history; and

Whereas museums located outside of Waller County, as well as artists residing in Waller County have already shown a keen interest in partnering with Waller County for the purpose of displaying significant works of art related to the history of Waller County and its region within the State of Texas.

The Waller County Commissioners Court DOES HEREBY set aside and designate the third floor of the Waller County Courthouse as a designated area for the display of art and other objects to be chosen and managed by the Waller County Art Committee established herein;

The Waller County Art Committee is hereby established and consists of the Waller County Judge, The Judge of Waller County Court at Law Two, an attorney residing in Waller County, Texas or who routinely practices law in Waller County appointed by the Waller County Judge, an artist residing in Waller County, Texas appointed by the Waller County Judge, and a current or retired educator whose primary job duties include/included the instruction of students in the field of visual or performing arts appointed by the Waller County Judge.

The Waller County Art Committee shall enact policies and procedures for the performance of its duties consistent with this resolution and the laws of the State of Texas. Any donations leading to county ownership or purchases of art or other objects to/by Waller County must be accepted and/or approved by the Waller County Commissioners Court.

The Waller County Art Committee is hereby instructed to look for opportunities to display art that is relevant and reflective of all individuals and groups that now and historically have made Waller County their home.

The Waller County Art Committee is hereby instructed to prohibit the display of any piece of art or object whose display would be violative of state or federal law, including laws on indecency.

The Waller County Art Committee is hereby instructed to choose pieces of art and objects which would be appropriate and dignified in accordance with the functions of the Waller County Courthouse third floor for jury selection and courtroom proceedings. No art or object shall be displayed at anytime which would directly seek to influence a juror or potential juror in the execution of their duties.

* Quoted from Texas Commission on the Arts - www.arts.texas.gov/about-us/agency-overview/why-the-arts-matter/

** *Texas County Progress* – www.countyprogress.com