

1 [Supporting the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre]

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Resolution supporting the Lorraine Hansberry and its contributions to the cultural life of San Francisco and its Theater District.

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco is a world-class city in large part as a result of its cultural and artistic diversity— resources that should be preserved wherever possible; and

WHEREAS, The City and County of San Francisco and an historic partnership of public, private, corporate and foundation donors invested over one-half million dollars to establish the Lorraine Hansberry Theater as an affordable and accessible theater and cultural resource benefiting the entire community and the City; and,

WHEREAS, The establishment of the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre in the theater district broke historic barriers by becoming the first and still only African American theater to be located in the City’s high-profile theater district; and,

WHEREAS, The Lorraine Hansberry celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2006 a track record of award-winning theater and artistic achievement attracting an important new and growing audience (more than 20,000 over the past year) —the most diverse audience of any theater in the region, contributing to tourism and the economic vitality of downtown San Francisco; and

WHEREAS, The Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, one of San Francisco’s premier African American cultural institutions, is a powerful example of inclusiveness; and

WHEREAS, The Lorraine Hansberry Theatre is threatened with the loss of its historic location as the Academy of Art University acquires the building—formerly the Landmark

1 YWCA Building and theater's home for nearly 20 years—and expresses its intention to
2 construct a gymnasium in the space for the private use of its students; and

3 WHEREAS, The Lorraine Hansberry Theatre if forced to move from its present
4 location, may not be able to secure a new location and therefore faces imminent destruction,
5 and the City would view this loss as a grievous and irreparable loss to the entire City, now,
6 therefore, be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors calls on the Academy of Art University to
8 work cooperatively with the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre to find a solution that would allow the
9 Theater to remain at its historic location in the downtown theater district; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors considers African American
11 arts and culture as embodied by the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre to be important to the
12 character and values of our City and believes it should remain a permanent part of the City
13 and County of San Francisco.

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