

1 [Artistic Free Speech Day - August 7, 2015]

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3 **Resolution declaring August 7, 2015, as Artistic Free Speech Day in the City and**  
4 **County of San Francisco.**

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6 WHEREAS, Freedom of speech is a core value in the United States of America; and

7 WHEREAS, Artistic expression is a form of free speech that has been pursued and  
8 challenged, yet ultimately supported and admired in San Francisco for many years; and

9 WHEREAS, The following San Francisco artists and/or their representatives were  
10 arrested or threatened with arrest for expressing themselves through their art; and

11 WHEREAS, Writer and publisher Lawrence Ferlinghetti and City Lights Bookstore  
12 manager Shig Murao, were arrested by the SFPD in 1957 for selling "HOWL" and other  
13 poems by Allen Ginsberg; and

14 WHEREAS, Comedian Lenny Bruce, was arrested by the SFPD in 1961 for performing  
15 a stand-up comedy act that expressed his social critique; and

16 WHEREAS, Vorpall Gallery owner Muldoon Elder, was arrested in 1964 by the SFPD  
17 for displaying "Themes from the Kama Sutra" sculptures by Ron Boice; and

18 WHEREAS, Journalist and filmmaker Saul Landau, was threatened with arrest in 1964  
19 by the Berkeley Police Department for attempting to screen Jean Genet's film "Chant  
20 d'Amour;" and

21 WHEREAS, Actors Billy Dixon and Richard Bright, were arrested by the SFPD in 1966  
22 for performing in Michael McClure's play "The Beard;" and

23 WHEREAS, R.G. Davis, founder/director of the San Francisco Mime Troupe, was  
24 arrested by the SFPD on August 7, 1965, for attempting to perform Giordano Bruno's classic  
25 comedy "Il Candelaio" without a permit in Lafayette Park; and

1           WHEREAS, These past infringements upon the free speech rights of all of these San  
2 Francisco artists should now be acknowledged and rejected in the light of the progress we  
3 have made as a city and a society that fully respects artistic freedom of expression; and

4           WHEREAS, Artistic free speech by San Franciscans has a major and beneficial cultural  
5 and economic impact on San Francisco, known around the world for our artists' creativity;  
6 now, therefore, be it

7           RESOLVED, Therefore, do we now declare that the annual date of the arrest of R. G.  
8 Davis in San Francisco's Lafayette Park on August 7, shall be known, recognized and  
9 celebrated each year as Artistic Free Speech Day; and, be it

10          FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors declares August 7, 2015,  
11 Artistic Free Speech Day in the City and County of San Francisco.

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