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ADOPTED - BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
DECEMBER 2, 2010

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 508
COUNTY OF COOK AND STATE OF ILLINOIS

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION UPON THE PASSING OF
DR. MARGARET T. BURROUGHS

WHEREAS, Dr. Margaret T. Burroughs, a poet, visual artist, arts organizer, educator and co-founder of the DuSable Museum of African American History who is one of the most distinguished and influential artists and art educators of our time, died on November 21, 2010, at the age of 93 surrounded by her family;

WHEREAS, Dr. Burroughs, born in St. Rose Parish, Louisiana on November 1, 1917, moved to Chicago as a young child and made education a priority in her life, graduated from Englewood High School in 1933, received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Chicago Teachers College in 1937, and graduated from the Art Institute of Chicago with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1944, and a Masters of Art in 1948;

WHEREAS, as a tireless advocate of education, Dr. Burroughs taught in the Chicago Public Schools, including 23 years as a teacher at DuSable High School, and lent her talents as an educator to teach as an Associate Professor of African American History at the Chicago Institute of Art, Professor of African American Art & Culture at Elmhurst College and Professor of Humanities at Kennedy-King College;

WHEREAS, in addition to her educational pursuits, Dr. Burroughs early immersion in the arts led her in her 20s, to join several other artists and art supporters in creating the South Side Community Art Center in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood 70 years ago, which still operates today as the oldest African American Art Center in existence and continues to contribute to the development and showcasing of emerging and established artists;

WHEREAS, Dr. Burroughs was celebrated internationally for her talent and through her exceptional skill as a gifted printmaker, earned a place in Art history, with exhibitions all over the world, including the United States, Mexico, Russia, and Poland. Dr. Burroughs once said of her art, "I wish my art to speak not only for my people but for all humanity...my subject matter is social commentary and seeks to improve the condition of life for all people";

WHEREAS, on February 16, 1961, Dr. Burroughs gained further international prominence as a co-founder of the DuSable Museum of African American History, which was started in her home and through her remarkable leadership, has now become the oldest and largest caretaker of African American culture in the United States with more than 100,000 artifacts, books, photographs, art objects and memorabilia among its collection and is the standard bearer for the formation of other similar museums throughout the country, including museums in Boston, Los Angeles and Philadelphia;

WHEREAS, Dr. Burroughs has also made a distinctive contribution as a poet and as an editor of poets with the majority of her work published in the volumes, *What Shall I Tell My Children Who Are Black?* (1968) and *Africa, My Africa* (1970);

WHEREAS, Dr. Burroughs received numerous awards and accolades, including an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Lewis University and Honorary Degrees from the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago State University, Columbia College, DePaul University and Spelman College; she is also an honorary member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., the nation's oldest predominantly black sorority;

WHEREAS, even in her 90s, Dr. Burroughs remained active throughout the community she loved, teaching art and poetry at Joliet and Statesville correctional facilities, speaking to students at Chicago Public Schools about the importance of receiving a solid education and pursuing dreams, and serving as a Commissioner with the Chicago Park District all the while maintaining her passion for life, which included weekly bowling with the Black Teachers Bowling League she joined over 40 years ago and regular trips to the roller skating rink;

WHEREAS, Dr. Burroughs lived by the seemingly simple philosophy of “pursue your passion, do great works and help others along the way,” and she understood that it is vital to recognize the talents and gifts that we all possess;

WHEREAS, Dr. Burroughs provided immeasurable contributions to the worlds of art and education and created a legacy that will be forever recognized by generations to come; and

WHEREAS, City Colleges of Chicago is honored to have considered Dr. Burroughs a colleague and we are immensely humbled that she chose to spend part of her life as a member of the City Colleges of Chicago faculty;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chairman, Chancellor and Board of Trustees, mourns the loss of Dr. Margaret T. Burroughs and extends heartfelt condolences to her family. We have benefitted enormously from her spirit as a pioneer in the worlds of education and art, a dedicated institution builder and a passionate role model for us all.