

1 [Commending Richard Labonté]

2 **COMMENDING RICHARD LABONTE FOR CO-FOUNDING A DIFFERENT LIGHT BOOKS**  
3 **AND FOR BEING A BEACON HIMSELF TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LESBIAN, GAY,**  
4 **BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER LITERARY COMMUNITY.**

5 WHEREAS, Richard Labonté co-founded A Different Light with Norman Laurila in 1979  
6 in Silver Lake; and

7 WHEREAS, The success of the Silver Lake store prompted Labonté and Laurila to  
8 open additional stores in San Francisco, West Hollywood and New York City; and

9 WHEREAS, Under Richard Labonté's expert management, A Different Light Books in  
10 San Francisco served as a community orientated business; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1990, A Different Light sponsored the first Outright Conference as well  
12 as the hosting the annual Bay Area Queer Literary Conference called Readers and Writers;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, A Different Light has thus provided the space and the opportunity for not  
15 only for writers to read their works in public, but also to various gay, lesbian, bisexual and  
16 transgender community based organizations including allowing these organizations to store  
17 tables and literature and donating thousands of dollars in the form of gift certificates to  
18 community raffles and events; and

19 WHEREAS, Under Labonté's direction, A Different Light was the first business in the  
20 Castro to support Simply Supper, which is a hot meal program for the homeless administered  
21 at Metropolitan Community Center; and

22 WHEREAS, Richard has been a guiding light to hundreds of queer writers and his  
23 presence in the office of A Different Light and will be sorely missed by all who came to seek a  
24 few wise words of advise from an erudite man of letters, publishing and books; and

25 Supervisors Ammiano, Katz

1           WHEREAS, Many in the small press movement have all praised Richard for his vision  
2 and his hard work in getting works from queer writers; and

3           WHEREAS, In addition to being a tireless promoter of queer literature, Richard has  
4 written number book reviews and book columns for numerous periodicals including Q  
5 magazine, Feminist Bookstore News; therefore be it

6           RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco  
7 hereby commends Richard Labonté for co-founding A Different Light bookstore and for being  
8 beacon himself to members of the lesbian, bisexual and transgender literary community.

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**SUPERVISORS AMMIANO**



City and County of San Francisco

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Tails  
Resolution

File Number: 001333

Date Passed:

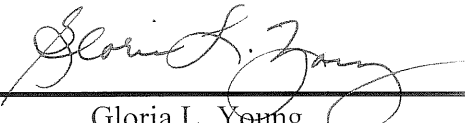
Resolution commending Richard Labonte for co-founding A Different Light Books and for being a beacon himself to the members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender literary community.

July 24, 2000 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Becerril, Bierman, Brown, Katz, Kaufman, Leno, Newsom, Teng, Yaki, Yee

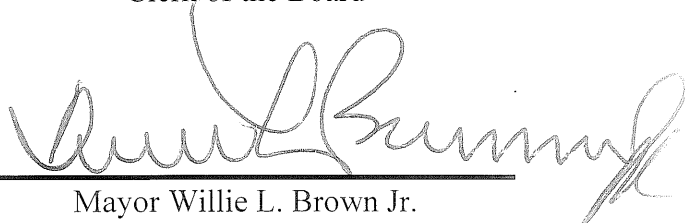
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I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on July 24, 2000 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

  
Gloria L. Young  
Clerk of the Board

AUG - 3 2000

Date Approved

  
Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.