

1 [Commendation-J. Weldon Smith.]
2

3 **Resolution commending J. Weldon Smith on his retirement after serving 15 years as**
4 **Director of the Museum of Craft and Folk Art.**
5

6 WHEREAS, J. Weldon Smith joined the Craft and Folk Art Museum of San Francisco,
7 now known as the Museum of Craft and Folk Art (MOCFA) as its first Director in 1986, one
8 year before the MOCFA moved from a house on Balboa Street to its current quarters at Fort
9 Mason; and

10 WHEREAS, Under Weldon Smith's leadership, MOCFA presented over 200 innovative
11 exhibitions, sent at least one exhibition every year to another museum, and was placed on the
12 museum map in 1988 by *Who'd A Thought It: Improvisations in African American Quilting*,
13 which introduced African-American quilting to the art world, traveled to 30 museums in 20
14 states and demonstrated folk art's deep cultural roots, spanning oceans and centuries, to
15 countless audiences; and,

16 WHEREAS, Exhibitions mounted during Weldon Smith's tenure range from *Not So*
17 *Native*, an exhibition comparing contemporary artists to their outsider artistic influences, to an
18 exhibition of violins by 13 Bay Area artists/violin makers, to *Classical Chinese Wood Furniture*
19 and *Riches from Rags: Recycling in Japanese Rural Weaving*, and to one of Weldon Smith's
20 favorite exhibitions, *Art of the Philippines*, an exhibit which was co-sponsored by AT&T and
21 the Arts Council of the Philippines and had the benefit of intensive involvement by the
22 Philippine community in San Francisco; and,

23 WHEREAS, Demand continues for exhibition catalogs published during Weldon
24 Smith's tenure, including the 1987 exhibition, *Innerskins/Outerskins*, and the elegant *June*
25 *Schwarcz: Forty Years/Forty Pieces*, published in 1998; and,

1 WHEREAS, Weldon Smith prepared requests to the James Irvine Foundation for the
2 1986 grant that enabled MOCFA to hire him as Director and for the 2001 grant that enabled
3 MOCFA to fund the transition to a new Director upon his March 31, 2002 retirement; and,

4 WHEREAS, As a result of Weldon Smith's contribution as a *grantwriter extraordinaire*,
5 the MOCFA has received the Institute of Museum and Library Services grants five times; and,

6 WHEREAS, In Weldon' Smith's final year as Director, MOCFA received a \$1.2 million
7 bequest from long-time member Joan McCauley, its largest single grant, the \$120,000 grant
8 from the Irvine Foundation, and a National Endowment for the Arts grant for the 2002
9 exhibition, *Fusing Traditions: Transformation in Glass City by Native American Artists*,
10 featuring the work of 18 outstanding glassmakers; now, therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco does
12 hereby thank and congratulate J. Weldon Smith for his service as the Director of the Museum
13 of Craft and Folk Art for enhancing the understanding that if you look around you, you can find
14 art in the midst of everyday life, whether that life existed long ago, far away or just next door,
15 and now, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors does hereby dedicate Tuesday,
17 March 26, 2002 as J. Weldon Smith Day in the City and County of San Francisco.



City and County of San Francisco

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

Tails Resolution

File Number: 020460

Date Passed:

Resolution commending J. Weldon Smith on his retirement after serving 15 years as Director of the Museum of Craft and Folk Art.

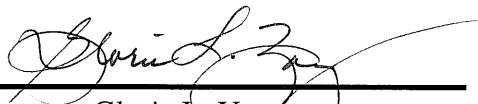
March 25, 2002 Board of Supervisors — ADOPTED

Ayes: 11 - Ammiano, Daly, Gonzalez, Hall, Leno, Maxwell, McGoldrick, Newsom, Peskin, Sandoval, Yee

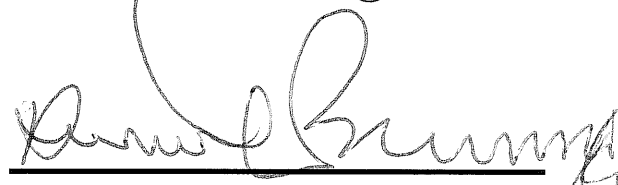
File No. 020460

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED on March 25, 2002 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

APR 05 2002


Gloria L. Young
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved


Mayor Willie L. Brown Jr.