414 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO
64106

File #: 250507

RESOLUTION NO. 250507

Recognizing and honoring Nasir Anthony Montalvo for their contributions to KC Black queer history through their solo exhibition titled Soakie's Was Home.

WHEREAS, Nasir curated Soakie's Was Home, an interactive solo exhibition that tells the story of Soakie's: a Black gay bar that operated in Downtown Kansas City from 1993 to 2004 before being forced to close due to the Power & Light Development; and

WHEREAS, twenty years since the bar's closing, this exhibition explores how the memory of Soakie's' can build Black queer futurity; and

WHEREAS, Soakie's Was Home is rooted in Montalvo's three years of research with {B/qKC}, a Black queer community archive. The exhibition is structured as a "timeline," inviting audiences to physically move through a narrative journey—from celebrating the vibrant community Soakie's once fostered, to reflecting on the absence of Black queer spaces in Kansas City today; and

WHEREAS, visitors encounter framed photographs and rare relics from Soakie's digitized and preserved through {B/qKC} from Black queer Kansas City elders Gary Carrington, Tisha Taylor/Craig Lovinggood, and Starla Carr–who frequented Soakie's; and

WHEREAS, the exhibit had its grand opening on May 3, 2025, and was on display until June 20, 2025, at The Waiting Room; and

WHEREAS, Nasir is using the history of Soakie's as a platform for a larger teaching series about the power of storytelling and the importance of history preservation; NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF KANSAS CITY:

That the Mayor and Council hereby recognize and honor Nasir Anthony Montalvo for their archival work culminating in Soakie's Was Home; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be spread upon the Minutes of the Council in testimony thereof and that a copy hereof be presented to Nasir Anthony Montalvo with the gratitude of the Mayor and Council for their creation of a local Black queer community archive (B/qKC).

Resolution
250507

Authenticated as Passed

Mayor

Marilyn Sanders, City Clerk

JUN 26 2025

Date Passed