



City of Columbus

Office of City Clerk
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columbuscitycouncil.org

Legislation Text

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To honor, recognize and celebrate the life of Charles “Is Said” Lyons, 1935-2023

WHEREAS, Charles Lyons, also known as Is Said, was born on January 26, 1935, in Atlanta, GA; and

WHEREAS, Is Said moved to Columbus at an early age, graduated from East High School, and returned to the city after serving in the United States Air Force; and

WHEREAS, Is Said was a driving force in the Columbus arts community for over 50 years, creating collaborative and independent projects that harnessed the power of the written and spoken word to uplift the community, recognize forgotten histories, and promote self-expression; and

WHEREAS, through his commitment to mentorship and community building, Is Said impacted countless artists of all ages and backgrounds and inspired them to embrace their creativity and find fulfillment through the arts; and

WHEREAS, promoting the African diaspora and African American culture and history was a central theme of Is Said’s vision, with his work and the work of those he inspired giving a voice to a once muted legacy, notably through the formation of the Columbus Advance Party and collaboration with the Uhuru Dancers to bring Afrocentric poetry, music, and dance to Central Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Is Said’s contributions have been recognized with an induction into the Lincoln Theatre Walk of Fame, the creation of a mural on the Near East Side, and a Columbus Legend Award from the King Arts Complex; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus extends its sincere condolences to the friends and family of Charles “Is Said” Lyons and everyone in the community who is mourning his recent passing; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS: That this Council does hereby honor, recognize, and celebrate the life of Charles “Is Said” Lyons.