



City of Chicago



R2021-796

Office of the City Clerk

Document Tracking Sheet

Meeting Date: 7/21/2021

Sponsor(s): Burke (14)

Type: Resolution

Title: Congratulations extended to Perri Imer on receiving The Order of Arts and Letters

Committee(s) Assignment:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Chicago City Council has been informed that Philippe Etienne, Ambassador of France to the United States, presented President & CEO Perri Irmer The Order of Arts and Letters in a ceremony held at the DuSable Museum of African American History ("museum") on June 28, 2021; and

WHEREAS, The Order of Arts and Letters was established in 1957 to recognize eminent artists and writers, as well as people who have contributed significantly to furthering the arts and culture in France and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, President & CEO Irmer was honored for DuSable programs highlighting the relationship between African Americans and the French, which included efforts like the museum hosting the first U.S. exhibit of Paris' Palais de Tokyo in 2017, which brought French and Chicago artists together; and

WHEREAS, The museum also brought French artists Nicolas Henry to work with South Side youth in 2017, creating a photo project about Jean-Baptiste Point DuSable; and

WHEREAS, Other programs included the 2018 exhibit on the African American 370th Infantry Regiment of Illinois, which was forced to fight under French command during World War I because white officers refused to lead African American troops in a segregated U.S. Army; and

WHEREAS, Another exhibit currently on display at the museum is the Bessie Coleman Centennial Exhibit which celebrates the achievements of the African American woman who was one of only two female pilots of her era who held a pilot's license earned in France because she was barred from U.S. flight schools; and

WHEREAS, As a result of these exhibits and projects, President and CEO Irmer received France's highest honor in the arts which is awarded annually to only a few hundred people worldwide; and

WHEREAS, Recent American recipients of the prestigious award include Leonardo di Caprio, Jonathan Franzen, David Lynch, Wynton Marsalis, Quentin Tarantino, Meryl Streep, Forest Whitaker, and Kehinde Willey; and

WHEREAS, The DuSable Museum of African American History is this nation's oldest independent Black history museum, a world-class, global institution; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Mayor and the members of the Chicago City Council, assembled this twenty-first day of July, 2021, do hereby recognize President & CEO Irmer's continuous efforts in highlighting the cultural and historic relationships as well as the strong mutual respect between African Americans and France; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be presented to President & CEO Perri Irmer.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. M. Burke', is written over a horizontal line.

Edward M. Burke
Alderman, 14th Ward