

# City of Philadelphia



## Council of the City of Philadelphia Office of the Chief Clerk Room 402, City Hall Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 260654)

### RESOLUTION

Honoring and recognizing Bernard Havard, President & Producing Artistic Director of the Walnut Street Theatre company.

WHEREAS, in the 2026-2027 season Bernard Havard will be celebrating his 45th anniversary since founding The Walnut Street Theatre Company; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Havard came to America in 1977, recruited from the Citadel Theatre in Canada. To run the Alliance Theatre in Atlanta, which he did for six years before being approached to take over The Walnut; and

WHEREAS, The Walnut, which at that time was a struggling rental facility. Mr. Havard was familiar with The Walnut from its illustrious past, and persuaded the Board to establish a not-for-profit, self-producing regional theatre; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Havard then built a subscription audience from zero to 56,000, the largest in the world. He is committed to a populist program and to producing musicals; and

WHEREAS, Bernard is recognized as one of America's leading theatre producers. Under his leadership, The Walnut has gained international recognition as one of America's premier regional theatres; and

WHEREAS, Bernard has spent his life in theatre as an actor, stage manager, director, managing director and producer. Some of his directorial credits at the Walnut include Noël Coward's *Blithe Spirit*, Oscar Wilde's *A Woman of No Importance*, Stephen Karam's *The Humans*, David Lindsay-Abaire's *Good People*, Yasmina Reza's *God of Carnage* and *Art, Someone Who'll Watch Over Me, Skylight*, and *A Life in the Theatre*; and

WHEREAS, Bernard has worked in England, Australia, and Canada and is very proud to be an American. Bernard comes from a leading family of theatre artists and sculptors in England and France. His ancestors include Louis Havard, palace sculptor for Kings Leopold of Belgium and George V of England, and Kate Rourke who created the role of "Candida" for George Bernard Shaw and was the first woman to smoke a cigarette on stage at Wyndham's in London; and

WHEREAS, When Mr. Havard came to the Walnut Street Theatre 43 years ago, there were no programs and no audience. Today they enjoy one of the largest subscription bases of any theatre in the world.

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*RESOLUTION NO. 260654 continued*

WHEREAS, Last season the Walnut Street Theatre reached more than 62,000 students in our City schools. They have 19 esteemed trustees who give their time, wisdom, and contributions to help guide this historical treasure; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby honors and recognizes Bernard Havard for his incalculable contributions to the Walnut Street Theatre.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this Resolution be presented to Bernard Havard, further evidencing the sincere respect and admiration of this legislative body.

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*RESOLUTION NO. 260654 continued*

CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the eleventh day of June, 2026.

Kenyatta Johnson  
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Elizabeth McCollum  
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Squilla

Sponsored by: Council President Johnson, Councilmembers Squilla, Phillips, Gilmore Richardson, Gauthier, Thomas, Jones, Landau, Lozada, Young, Brooks, Harrity, O'Rourke, Driscoll, O'Neill, Bass and Ahmad