



## Legislation Details (With Text)

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**File created:** 9/18/2008      **In control:** CITY COUNCIL

**On agenda:**      **Final action:** 9/18/2008

**Title:** Honoring the Jacob Lawrence's series Hiroshima and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts as it continues to grow and provide the rare combination of a world-class museum and an extraordinary faculty known for its commitment to students and for the stature and quality of it's artistic work.

**Sponsors:** Councilmember Reynolds Brown, Councilmember Goode, Council President Verna, Councilmember Miller, Councilmember Sanchez, Councilmember Green, Councilmember Clarke, Councilmember DiCicco, Councilmember Jones, Councilmember Greenlee, Councilmember Blackwell, Councilmember Tasco, Councilmember Krajewski

**Indexes:**

**Code sections:**

**Attachments:** 1. Resolution No. 08069100.pdf

| Date      | Ver. | Action By    | Action     | Result | Tally |
|-----------|------|--------------|------------|--------|-------|
| 9/18/2008 | 0    | CITY COUNCIL | ADOPTED    |        |       |
| 9/18/2008 | 0    | CITY COUNCIL | READ       |        |       |
| 9/18/2008 | 0    | CITY COUNCIL | Introduced | Pass   |       |

Honoring the Jacob Lawrence's series *Hiroshima* and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts as it continues to grow and provide the rare combination of a world-class museum and an extraordinary faculty known for its commitment to students and for the stature and quality of it's artistic work.

**WHEREAS**, Born in Atlantic City, New Jersey, Jacob Lawrence spent part of his childhood in Philadelphia before moving to Harlem 1930; and

**WHEREAS**, Fascinated by the impact of major historical events on the lives of ordinary people he, starting in 1936, frequently researched and then designed multi-panel narratives based on key events in American culture and the African American experience; and

**WHEREAS**, In 1982, Sidney Shiff, owner of the Limited Editions Club, New York commissioned Jacob Lawrence to make illustrations to the book *Hiroshima*; and

**WHEREAS**, *Hiroshima* was written in 1946, by John Hershey, depicting six survivors of the first atomic bomb attack; and

**WHEREAS**, Lawrence created eight paintings that are inspired by author John Hershey, transcending his text to rank among the most powerful visual statements; and

**WHEREAS**, This exhibition will place the *Hiroshima* series in the context of Lawrence's career as an empathetic chronicler of history and his own time; and

**WHEREAS**, Rather than illustrate the text he selected, Lawrence drew on his own experience in urban

communities to imagine the bomb's "noiseless flash" as it destroyed lives and irrevocably changed our culture; and

**WHEREAS,** A part of the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts permanent collection, the series represents Lawrence's devastating evocation of the physical and emotional impact of the Hiroshima bombing; and

**WHEREAS,** Lawrence was honored with a medal from the Pennsylvania Academy in 1997. He lived, worked and taught in Seattle for nearly three decades passing away there in 2000; and

**WHEREAS,** As of June 26, 2008 the permanent collection will be on display at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts; America's oldest continually operating school of fine arts museum; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA,** That we hereby honor the Jacob Lawrence's series *Hiroshima* and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts as it continues to grow and provide the rare combination of a world-class museum and an extraordinary faculty known for its commitment to students and for the stature and quality of its artistic work.

**FURTHER RESOLVED,** That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to representatives from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts for honoring the work, efforts, and legacy of Jacob Lawrence as evidence of the sincere sentiments of this legislative body.