Legislation Details (With Text)

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Title:	Recognizing and honoring World Master Percussionist Pablo Batista for his distinguished contributions to music, culture, and education in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.				
Sponsors:	Councilmember Lozada, Councilmember Phillips, Councilmember Gilmore Richardson, Councilmember Gauthier, Councilmember Landau, Councilmember Young, Councilmember Brooks, Councilmember Harrity, Councilmember O'Neill, Councilmember Squilla, Councilmember Bass				
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Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result	Tally
9/11/2025	0	CITY COUNCIL	ADOPTED		
9/11/2025	0	CITY COUNCIL	Introduced and Ordered Placed on This Week's Final Passage Calendar		

Recognizing and honoring World Master Percussionist Pablo Batista for his distinguished contributions to music, culture, and education in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

WHEREAS, Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to honor and celebrate the remarkable achievements and enduring cultural contributions of Latino leaders whose work uplifts communities and enriches our collective society; and

WHEREAS, Pablo Batista, a world master percussionist and son of Puerto Rican immigrant parents, has distinguished himself for more than four decades as one of the most accomplished and versatile musicians of his generation, performing, recording, and touring internationally with leading artists in rhythm and blues, jazz, Latin, pop, and gospel; and

WHEREAS, From early beginnings studying hand drums at age nine in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, under master percussionist Miguel Candia, Pablo Batista has developed a singular talent grounded in Afro-Caribbean traditions and elevated by formal study, earning degrees from Temple University while launching his professional career under the mentorship of legendary saxophonist Grover Washington Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Batista’s career has included high-profile collaborations with an extraordinary roster of artists such as Alicia Keys, Patti LaBelle, Kirk Franklin, Jill Scott, Phyllis Hyman, Teddy Pendergrass, Gerald Levert, Jeffrey Osborne, Musiq, Dianne Reeves, Norman Brown, Eddie Palmieri, and Manny Oquendo and Libre, among many others; and

WHEREAS, His professional accomplishments include touring with Alicia Keys for more than a decade, including a live performance before a global audience of over one billion people at the 2010 World Cup ceremonies in South Africa, and participating in her annual Black Ball fundraiser which raised over $3 million for youth and families impacted by HIV; and

WHEREAS, Pablo Batista holds the rare distinction of having performed on Grammy Award-winning recordings across multiple genres including jazz, R&B, gospel, and contributed to the Oscar-winning soundtrack for *Judas and the Black Messiah*; and

WHEREAS, In 2015, Pablo's band, Mambo Syndicate, had the honor of performing for Pope Francis during his Holiness' historic visit to Philadelphia, showcasing both his musical artistry and cultural depth; and

WHEREAS, Beyond his achievements on stage, Pablo Batista is a passionate cultural educator and community advocate. He has long taught low-income students in North Philadelphia and given master classes at the renowned Curtis Institute of Music, nurturing the next generation of artists with generosity and vision; and

WHEREAS, A lifelong student of Afro-Cuban percussion and culture, Pablo has been recognized with major artistic honors including a Pew Fellowship in Folk Arts, multiple Pennsylvania Council on the Arts fellowships, a Kimmel Center Jazz Residency, and the 2023 Linny Award for Performing Artist of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Pablo Batista's original compositions, including *El Viaje (The Journey)* -supported by a grant from the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage and premiered at the Temple Performing Arts Center-further demonstrate his innovation, storytelling, and commitment to preserving and advancing cultural heritage through music; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby honors and recognizes Pablo Batista for his lifelong dedication to music, education, and Latino cultural expression; and celebrates his legacy and impact during Hispanic Heritage Month as a source of pride, inspiration, and artistic excellence for the City of Philadelphia and beyond.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this Resolution be presented to Pablo Batista as a token of the sincere appreciation, admiration, and respect of this legislative body.

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