A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PASSING OF MR. ARTURO R. LUZ

WHEREAS, on May 26, 2021, the esteemed Philippine National Artist for Visual Arts Mr. Arturo Rogerio Luz passed away at the age of 94;

WHEREAS, Mr. Luz obtained a degree in Fine Arts from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila. He mastered his craft further and studied at the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, the Art School of the Brooklyn Museum in New York, and at the Académie Grade Chaumière in Paris;

WHEREAS, in addition to being a painter, sculptor, and designer, Mr. Luz also exhibited his and others’ works, leading a successful career as a gallerist of choice especially for State functions. At a time when classic European art had
prevailed, Mr. Luz championed a modernist visual language in painting and sculpture. In 1974, Mr. Luz was tasked by the State to assemble a collection of contemporary works by prominent Philippine artists, which included the likes of Benedict Cabrera, Jose Joya, and himself, at the opening of New York’s Philippine Center, which was a Fifth Avenue building that continues to house the country’s trade, tourism and culture missions.

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Luz is the proprietor of the Luz Gallery, which, according to the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, professionalized the art gallery as an institution promoting contemporary art;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Luz worked extensively on public art and building projects, collaborating with the likes of great Filipino architect Leandro Locsin on tropical Brutalist architecture;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Luz received multiple awards for his work during his lifetime, including first prize at International Art Salon in Saigon, South Vietnam in 1962 and an award from the California Art Association, and the Republic Cultural Heritage Award for Painting in 1966. He was also recognized as the *Outstanding Young Man In Art* by The Manila Times;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Luz, a key figure in Filipino neo-realism, was best known for using spare lines and dramatic compositions in his practice that included painting, collage, printmaking, sculpture, and photography. In 1997, the Philippine government designated him a National Artist, the country’s most prestigious cultural accolade;

**WHEREAS**, from 1976 to 1986, Mr. Luz served as the founding director of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila and is a frequent participant of exhibits held at the museum.

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Luz served as the inaugural Executive Director of the Design Center of the Philippines who led the agency in conducting and implementing promotion, research and development programs that paved the way for innovative and pioneering design for Philippine products and handicrafts.

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Luz also served as the founding Director of the now-closed Museum of Philippine Art where he gathered an impressive collection of modern Philippine art;

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2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the House of Representatives expresses its profound sympathy and sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Arturo Rogelio Luz, a prolific visual artist par excellence whose influence in Philippine art and its history remains deeply ingrained until today;

RESOLVED, FURTHER, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the bereaved family of the late Mr. Arturo Rogelio Luz.

Adopted,

HON. LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO
HON. CHRISTOPHER V.P. DE VENECIA
HON. CLAUDINE DIANA D. BAUTISTA
HON. JUAN MIGUEL MACAPAGAL ARROYO
HON. EVELINA G. ESCUDERO
HON. ROSE MARIE “BABY” ARENAS
HON. STELLA LUZ A. QUIMBO
HON. CRISTAL L. BAGATSING