

City of Gainesville, Florida

Office of Mayor Lauren Poe
PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Gainesville Cultural Affairs Board's Business Arts, Individual Arts, and Jennie Kest Lifetime Arts Awards recognize those individuals and businesses that have made significant contributions to the advancement of the arts in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Repurpose Project is a non-profit community based effort that serves the community as an art and construction supply store and recycler where discarded materials can be salvaged for new purposes, as an outdoor stage that hosts community events that encourage art and draw awareness to issues of waste and pollution, and as a community school and studio space for arts and crafts classes and workshops. In fulfilling its important mission, the Repurpose Project helps our community not only divert useful resources from the landfill, but redirects these items to the public for art and education, inspiring creativity and encouraging us all to rethink what we throw away; and

WHEREAS, founded by E. Stanley Richardson, AROSPEAKS is the area's premier poetry event and is dedicated to promoting literacy, bringing awareness and expanding opportunity by providing a medium for expression through the art of Poetry, Spoken Word and Storytelling. Over the last six years, "AROSPEAKS: Bringing Poetry and People Together" and "AROSPEAKS: Courageous Young Voices" has showcased over 100 adult and youth poets from both the region and around the world. In doing so, it has allowed the participants and audience alike to see power that art and the creative process can have to release the human spirit and elevate the soul; and

WHEREAS, Leslie Sharp is a woman blacksmith and local small business owner who is not just a talented artist, but an entrepreneur who has built her own studio and school out of her passion for an art-form and field in which she is a minority. Through her teaching and public blacksmithing demonstrations, she has introduced women and girls to hand-forged art and destroyed any stigma associated with women wielding hammers and fire. She is a role model for girls, women and other minorities who wish to defy gender stereotypes to follow their dreams; and

WHEREAS, Lucinda Lavelli served as Dean of the College of the Arts at University of Florida from 2006 to 2018 making many contributions to the University and its students, as well as the community. To name just a few, she instituted a longstanding partnership between the University and the Hippodrome, facilitated the installation of large scale public art for all to enjoy and worked tirelessly to bring vocational arts-based learning opportunities to our underserved populations. She spearheaded efforts to unify Gainesville's cultural and artistic community with that of the University, and surrounding areas, through a series of town halls convened to align the 352ArtsRoadmap with the University's Strategic Development Plan. With a genuine passion for the Arts, as well as for people, Dean Lavelli has worked as a quiet servant on all of our behalfs, and we are so much the better for it.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lauren Poe, by the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Gainesville, do hereby proclaim March 21, 2019 as

*The Repurpose Project, E. Stanley Richardson and
ARTSPEAKS, Leslie Sharp and Lucinda Lavelli
Day*

in the City of Gainesville and invite all our citizens to join me to recognize the Repurpose Project and E. Stanley Richardson as recipients of the 2018 Business Arts Awards, Leslie Sharp as the recipient of the Individual Arts Award and Lucinda Lavelli and the recipient of the Lennie Kest Lifetime Arts Award and express our appreciation for their overall dedication to the arts in our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the official seal of the City of Gainesville, Florida, this 26th day of February, A.D., 2019.



Lauren Poe
Mayor