

GENNY LIM

WHEREAS, Genny Lim was born a second-generation Chinese-Chukchi American in 1946 in San Francisco where she grew up to become an award-winning poet, playwright, journalist, editor, performer, and activist, bringing needed attention to Asian history, cultural expression, and social justice issues; and

WHEREAS, Genny Lim is the author of five poetry collections—*Winter Place*, *Child of War*, *Paper Gods and Rebels*, *KRA!*, and *La Morte Del Temp*—and of two anthologies of Senior Asian American memoirs—*From Both Shores* and *Window: Glimpses of Our Storied Past*; and

WHEREAS, Genny Lim co-edited and co-translated for the ground-breaking book *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island* (1980) with Him Mark Lai and Judy Yung and sparked national attention to the long-forgotten history and poems inscribed on the detention barrack walls by Chinese immigrants, poems that represent the first literature and protest poems by Chinese Americans; the book received the American Book Award; and

WHEREAS, Genny Lim is the author of the award-winning play *Paper Angels*, a historic drama set on Angel Island, the first Asian play to air on PBS's American Playhouse in 1985, and has been produced throughout the U.S., Canada, and China, and the author of the play *Bitter Cane*, and founder of the experimental theater company Paper Angel Productions, now known as Theater XX; and

WHEREAS, Genny Lim's poems and plays are published in numerous anthologies, including *Cheers to Muses: Contemporary Works by Asian American Women*, *Huizache: Magazine of Latino Literature*, *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color*, *Eastwind: Politics & Culture of Asian America*, *The Politics of Life: Four Plays by Asian American Women*, *Oxford Book of Women's Writing in the United States*, as well as other journals and anthologies; and

WHEREAS, Genny Lim has integrated her poetry vocals with contemporary jazz in live performance and served as the San Francisco Jazz Poet Laureate (2017-2019) and her poetry vocals have been featured on three records/CDs: *Devotee* with music by Francis Wong, *Immigrant Suite* with music by Jon Jang Sextet, and *Arkaeology* with music by Herbie Lewis and Francis Wong; and

WHEREAS, Genny Lim has performed extensively in the Bay Area—Watershed Ecology and Poetry Festival, Lit Quake, SF Jazz Center, San Francisco International Arts Center, Japan Peace Plaza, Asian Art Museum, Yerba Buena Gardens Festival, CounterPULSE, Bird and Beckett, Herbst Theater as well as nationally in New York and Seattle and in international poetry festivals in Italy, Caracas, Venezuela and Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina; and

WHEREAS Genny Lim has received awards for her poetry and other creative work including a PEN Oakland Reginald Lockett Lifetime Achievement Award, Arts & Community Partnership Award from the San Francisco Arts Commission, John D. Rockefeller Award, Distinguished Award for Culture from the San Francisco Culture Center Foundation, Bay Guardian Goldie Award, and James Wong Howe Award; and

WHEREAS Genny Lim earned a B.A. in Theater Arts and an M.A. in English, Creative Writing Emphasis from San Francisco State University and a Certificate of Journalism, Michele Clark Fellow, Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University; and

WHEREAS, Genny Lim has taught extensively at California Institute of Integral Studies, New College of California, Notre Dame de Namur University, Japanese American Community Cultural Center, Naropa Institute West, University of California at Berkeley, and many school and community centers; and

WHEREAS Genny Lim served as a San Francisco Arts Commissioner from 1991-1995, under Mayors Art Agnos and Frank Jordan, where she helped establish the Cultural Equity Arts Program and the San Francisco Writers Corps, and she has committed her life to making needed social, cultural, and political change through the arts;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED On January 23, 2022, the 19th Annual Berkeley Poetry Festival honors Genny Lim with its Lifetime Achievement Award for the truly valuable creative and community work that she has accomplished.