



PROCLAMATION

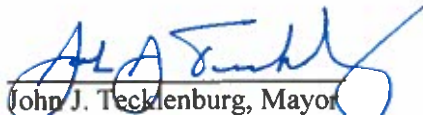
- WHEREAS, **MARCUS AMAKER** was named Charleston, SC's first Poet Laureate in 2016; and
- WHEREAS, with the mission of uplifting the community through events and workshops, promoting poetry in schools and treating poetry as public art throughout the city, **MARCUS AMAKER** created the Free Verse Festival--Charleston's first poetry festival; and
- WHEREAS, **MARCUS AMAKER** also founded Free Verse, LLC, a publishing company and poetry business that publishes books written by Charleston, SC poets; and
- WHEREAS, visiting more than 80 schools, **MARCUS AMAKER** has mentored hundreds of students throughout the Lowcountry, performed poetry to 3,000 children at the Charleston Gaillard Center and inspired students to create a poetry group within their school; and
- WHEREAS, poetry by **MARCUS AMAKER** has been studied in classrooms around the country, and has been interpreted for ballet, jazz, modern dance, opera and theater; and
- WHEREAS, **MARCUS AMAKER's** work has been recognized by The Kennedy Center, American Poets Magazine, The Washington National Opera, The Portland Opera, Button Poetry, NPR, The Chicago Tribune, Edutopia, Washington Post, Departures Magazine, People's World, PBS Newshour, SC Public Radio, Charleston Magazine, Charleston City Paper, North Dakota Quarterly, Post and Courier, Charleston Scene and several other noteworthy publications; and
- WHEREAS, in 2019, **MARCUS AMAKER** won a Governor's Arts award in South Carolina and was named the artist-in-residence of the Gaillard Center, a world-renowned performance and education venue in Charleston, SC; and
- WHEREAS, the Academy of American Poets recently named **MARCUS AMAKER** a 2021 fellow, a prestigious honor received by just 23 poets across the country, which will allow him to release a new children's book about Black music and to launch a new "Poets in Schools" initiative; and
- WHEREAS, **MARCUS AMAKER** has made invaluable contributions to our city and state and, on behalf of the citizens of Charleston, I would like to congratulate him on this remarkable honor and thank him for all he continues to do to help make the arts accessible to members of our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John J. Tecklenburg, Mayor of the City of Charleston, do hereby proclaim June 3, 2021 as:

MARCUS AMAKER DAY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I do hereby set my hand, and cause the seal of Charleston to be affixed, this 3rd day of June in the year of 2021.




John J. Tecklenburg, Mayor