

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION 31968

A RESOLUTION providing an honorary designation of E Union Street between 34th Avenue and 35th Avenue as “Douglas Q. Barnett Street.”

WHEREAS, as the founding director of the nationally acclaimed theatre Black Arts/West in

1969, Douglas Quinton Barnett produced over 40 productions during his lifetime and

acted in over 30 productions with five different companies, including Black Arts/West,

ACT Theatre, Washington Ensemble Theatre, and Seattle Repertory Theatre. The legacy

of his work is evidenced by aspiring talent who became professional actors and have

performed on Broadway, in regional theatres, on television, and in professional dance

companies; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barnett was instrumental in the development of theater in Seattle’s African

American community during the 1960s, with the Black Arts/West theater group first

performing at Central Area Douglass-Truth Library and then securing performance space

at the historic Central Area Motivation Program (now Byrd Barr Place), before

eventually establishing a home for Black Arts/West at 3406 E Union Street; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barnett was a co-author of *The Historical Dictionary of African American*

Theater (2008) and was a contributing historian at the Black Heritage Society of

Washington State, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barnett lived a full, rich life as a father, and was a member of an early Seattle

pioneering family that was instrumental in lifting the vitality of the Black community;

and

1 WHEREAS, the Historic Central Area Arts and Cultural District (HCAACD) has nominated Mr.
2 Douglas Q. Barnett for a designated honorary street name; and

3 WHEREAS, Kibibi Monié, Executive Director of Nu Black Arts West Theatre and committee
4 member at HCAACD, said of Mr. Barnett, “In honor of a great man, Mr. Douglas Q.
5 Barnett, Nu Black Arts West Theatre salutes his professional accomplishments, and
6 attests to his love and pride for the Black community who with deep gratitude values all
7 he gave. It is with great pride that Nu Black Arts West Theatre was given the privilege to
8 continue his legacy”; NOW, THEREFORE,

9 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE THAT:**

10 Section 1. E Union Street between 34th Avenue and 35th Avenue shall have an honorary
11 designation as “Douglas Q. Barnett Street.”

12 Section 2. The Council requests that the Seattle Department of Transportation
13 manufacture, install, and maintain honorary signs at prominent and appropriate locations, which
14 shall reflect the “Douglas Q. Barnett Street” honorary designation.

1 Adopted by the City Council the 21st day of _____, September, 2020,
2 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this 21st day of
3 _____, September, 2020.



4 _____
5 President _____ of the City Council

6 Filed by me this 21st day of September, 2020.



7 _____
8 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

9 (Seal)