

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERAN
AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

BILL NO. 35-0100

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

June 12, 2023

A Resolution honoring and commending Music in Motion School of Higher Dance Education and its founder, Charlita Schuster, on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of the Music in Motion Dance Academy

PROPOSED BY: Senator Samuel Carrión

1 **WHEREAS,** Music In Motion Dance Academy was established in 1983 on the island
2 of St. Croix in the Virgin Islands;

3 **WHEREAS,** at the age of 25, the founder, Charlita Schuster, made a bold decision to
4 move back home from New York to St. Croix and officially opened her dance school with a
5 total of five students;

6 **WHEREAS,** Music In Motion Dance Academy was later renamed Music in Motion
7 School of Higher Dance Education;

8 **WHEREAS,** the reason for the name change was that Ms. Schuster wanted to educate
9 the community that dance is an educational development, not just something fun to do;

10 **WHEREAS,** Music In Motion School of Higher Dance Education was designed to train
11 students in various dance styles, including classical ballet, modern, tap, Quadrille, African, and
12 Latin dance;

1 **WHEREAS**, Music In Motion School of Higher Dance Education orchestrates yearly
2 dance performances to showcase the technical skills students are taught during the year;

3 **WHEREAS**, Music In Motion School of Higher Dance Education has trained some of
4 the best classical ballet dancers, performers, and stage and movie entertainers, along with
5 skilled gymnasts and acrobatic tumblers on the island of St. Croix;

6 **WHEREAS**, Music In Motion School of Higher Dance Education students have traveled
7 to Denmark, Antigua, St. Martin, St. Kitts, and other Caribbean islands to perform;

8 **WHEREAS**, numerous students of Music In Motion School of Higher Dance Education
9 have gone on to prestigious institutions and won numerous international titles and awards for
10 the territory;

11 **WHEREAS**, students of Music In Motion School of Higher Dance Education pursued a
12 Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Dance and were accepted and trained at the Dance Theatre of
13 Harlem, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, The Rock School of Dance, Ballet Florida,
14 and The Interlochen Center for the Arts;

15 **WHEREAS**, in 2005 Ms. Schuster received the “I’m Proud Award” for her professional
16 and artistic contributions to the young people of the St. Croix community from the Annual
17 Cruzan-Latin Caribbean “Pig Roast” Festival;

18 **WHEREAS**, in 2014 Music in Motion School of Higher Dance Education was
19 recognized by the 10th Annual Cruzan-Latin Caribbean “Pig Roast” Festival & Domino
20 Tournament for its outstanding and excellent contribution to the youth and the St. Croix
21 community at large;

22 **WHEREAS**, in 2017 Ms. Schuster received the Vocational Service Award for the Rotary
23 Club of St. Croix for her high ethical standards and devotion to artistic expression;

24 **WHEREAS**, besides Music In Motion School of Higher Dance Education, Ms. Schuster
25 assisted the University of the Virgin Islands, Albert A. Sheen campus on St. Croix, and Orville

1 E. Keen campus on St. Thomas by developing the ballet syllabus and studio for the new
2 Bachelor of Fine Arts program;

3 **WHEREAS**, in June of 2023, Music In Motion School of Higher Dance Education will
4 celebrate its 40th Anniversary with a series of monthly events beginning in June 2023; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Virgin Islands should commemorate the Music In Motion School of
6 Higher Dance Education's 40th Anniversary as the founder continues to impact the territory
7 through dance; Now, Therefore,

8 ***Be it resolved by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

9 **SECTION 1.** The Legislature of the Virgin Islands, on behalf of the people of the Virgin
10 Islands, honors and commends Music in Motion School of Higher Dance Education and its
11 founder, Charlita Schuster, as Music in Motion School of Higher Dance Education
12 commemorates the 40th Anniversary.

13 **SECTION 2.** The President of the Legislature, or the President's designee, shall have a
14 perma plaque copy of this Resolution prepared and presented to Charlita Schuster, the founder
15 of Music in Motion School of Higher Dance Education, at an appropriate ceremony.

16 **BILL SUMMARY**

17 This resolution honors and commends the Music in Motion School of Higher Dance
18 Education and its founder, Charlita Schuster, on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the
19 establishment of the Music in Motion Dance Academy on the island of St. Croix.

20 **BR23-0274/May 4, 2023/NS**