

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa takes pride in recognizing individuals whose commitment and dedication have made a lasting impact on our community and its citizens; **Judith “Judy” Lisi**, a well-respected community leader, President and CEO of the David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, (The Straz Center), and General Director of Opera Tampa is one such person; and

WHEREAS, bringing her leadership, singing, acting, and teaching experience with her from The Juilliard School, the Downtown Cabaret Theater in Connecticut, the Downtown Cabaret Theater in Bridgeport, and with the Shubert Performing Arts Center in New Haven, Judy’s impact on Tampa’s arts and cultural presence began 1992, where she has made a tremendous difference; and

WHEREAS, Judy began her tenure with the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, now The Straz Center as its Executive Director and soon after was named President and CEO, and within her first four years, her positive impact was evident with extraordinary accomplishments including retiring an over \$4 million debt, increasing Broadway subscriptions from 1,500 to 10,000, adding the Hinks & Elaine Shimberg Playhouse that allowed for new theater groups, she founded Opera Tampa with renown Maestro Anton Coppola, and created fine dining experiences with Maestro’s Restaurant; and

WHEREAS, Judy’s vision and forward thinking elevated The Straz Center to become the largest performing arts center in the Southeast, one of the nation’s leading theatrical institutions, and the only one with an on-site performing arts conservatory, the prestigious Patel Conservatory that incorporates high quality and exceptional arts education for its students and it partners with underserved schools; and

WHEREAS, each year, Judy presented Tampa with one of the country’s strongest and most successful touring Broadway productions, and she developed, produced, and premiered the Broadway-bound musical *Wonderland* in 2011, and her legacy includes serving more than 700,000 residents and citizens each year, generating a an annual impact of over \$130 million, and leading the multi-million-dollar Straz Center Master Plan, a state-of-the-art evolution that includes enhanced interfaces with the Tampa Riverwalk, opening lobbies up to the public, a Grand Terrace pedestrian experience, a multi-purpose event center, the Patel Conservatory expansion, more dining experiences, docks for boat access, and more; and

WHEREAS, Judy has written and produced over ten plays, produced more than 100 opera performances, she is a voting member of the Tony Awards, and among her many honors she received the International Society for the Performing Arts’ *Patrick Hayes Award*, the Broadway League’s *Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award*, and she has been inducted into the *Tampa Bay Business Hall of Fame*.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, September 20, 2022, as

“JUDY LISI DAY”

in the city of Tampa, Florida and urge all citizens to join me in wishing her continued success in her retirement and thanking her for all she has contributed to the community over the years, for her unwavering dedication to the arts, and for her efforts in elevating The Straz Center to a world-class venue.

Dated in Tampa, Florida this 20th day of September 2022.



Mayor

