

**BY:** Senator PARKER

**HONORING** the life and legacy of Arturo Alfonso Schomburg and recognizing his many contributions to the State of New York

**WHEREAS,** It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and honor individuals whose intellectual leadership, scholarship, and unwavering commitment to truth have profoundly enriched the cultural, historical, and civic life of the State of New York; and

**WHEREAS,** Arturo Alfonso Schomburg (January 24, 1874 - June 19, 1938) was a distinguished historian, writer, curator, and activist whose life's work transformed the understanding and preservation of the global contributions of people of African descent; and

**WHEREAS,** Born in Santurce, Puerto Rico, to Mary Joseph, a freeborn Black midwife from St. Croix, and Carlos Federico Schomburg, the son of a German immigrant, Arturo Schomburg was raised within a rich Afro-Caribbean tradition that shaped his lifelong commitment to history, justice, and cultural affirmation; and

**WHEREAS,** After relocating to New York City in 1891, at the age of 17, Arturo Schomburg devoted his life to disproving the false and damaging claim that Black people possessed no history or significant achievements, instead dedicating himself to uncovering, documenting, and celebrating the richness of Black life throughout the African diaspora; and

**WHEREAS,** A vital intellectual figure of the Harlem Renaissance, Arturo Schomburg co-founded the Negro Society for Historical Research, brought together African, Caribbean, and African-American scholars, and authored influential essays and bibliographies that challenged racist scholarship and expanded academic and public understanding of Black achievement; and

**WHEREAS,** Arturo Schomburg's extraordinary personal collection of books, manuscripts, art, and historical materials was acquired by the New York Public Library and became the foundation of the institution now known as the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in Harlem, one of the world's leading repositories dedicated to the study of Black history and culture; and

**WHEREAS,** Identifying proudly as an Afro-Puerto Rican, Arturo Schomburg exemplified the interconnectedness of African, Caribbean, and Latin-American histories, and his work forged enduring bridges among cultures while advancing a more inclusive and truthful narrative of the American experience; and

**WHEREAS,** Arturo Alfonso Schomburg's legacy endures through the generations of scholars, students, artists, and community members inspired by his belief that history is a vital instrument of dignity,

liberation, and collective memory; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to honor the life and legacy of Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, in acknowledgment of his enduring contributions to historical scholarship, cultural preservation, and the advancement of knowledge and justice for all; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture as a testament to the lasting impact of Arturo Alfonso Schomburg upon the State of New York and beyond.