

*The Board of Supervisors of
Contra Costa County, California*

C.20

In the matter of Honoring the Life of Ruth Bancroft

Resolution No. 2017/441

WHEREAS, Ruth Bancroft was the beloved founder of the world-renowned Ruth Bancroft Gardens; and

WHEREAS, Ruth studied architecture at UC Berkeley, but the stock market crash in 1929 made it difficult to find employment, so Ruth completed a home arts degree and became a high school teacher; and

WHEREAS, she married Philip Bancroft, Jr. in 1939; and

WHEREAS, Ruth moved to the Bancroft family's 400-acre pear and walnut farm in Walnut Creek, where she and Philip raised three children; and

WHEREAS, when her children were young, she began collecting shells on family trips to Pescadero; and

WHEREAS, she carefully documented each species and date and location where it was collected; and

WHEREAS, a large part of her collection was donated to the California Academy of Sciences, which found great value in its documentation; and

WHEREAS, in the 1950s, Ruth began collecting succulents and creating the gardens that still exist around her home, including a lawn designed by well-known landscape architect Ted Osmundson; and

WHEREAS, Ruth developed a number of gardens in the 1950s, which included the Herb Garden, Rose Garden, Rock Garden, and the Iris Walk; and

WHEREAS, Ruth spent countless hours recording the details of her gardens; and

Whereas in 1971 Philip Bancroft Jr. gave her 3.5 acres to plant her succulents and she began her final garden on the site of a former walnut orchard; and

WHEREAS, the Bancroft family formed the nonprofit the Ruth Bancroft Garden on Bancroft Road and was the inspiration for the founding of the Garden Conservancy; and

WHEREAS, a conservation easement was applied to the garden property, the first such case of a garden being preserved through an easement in North America; and

WHEREAS, their first project: the Ruth Bancroft Garden opened to the public in 1992; and

WHEREAS, the Ruth Bancroft Garden is a masterpiece; a deeply personal and original exploration of plants, place and garden design; and

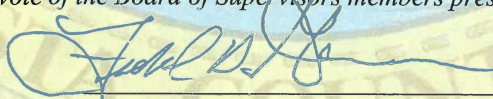
WHEREAS, Ruth worked every day in the garden until she was 97 years old; and

WHEREAS, Ruth shared that gardening for so many years taught her patience; and

WHEREAS, Ruth was deeply admired by those who worked with her, she and her garden inspired generations of visitors and she will be remembered fondly by her community.

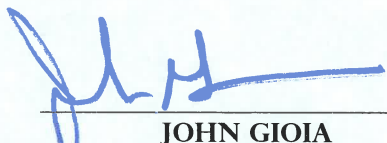
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does hereby honor Ruth Bancroft for her contributions to our community by nurturing her gardens and teaching us to respect the environment and treasure the natural beauty around us.

PASSED by a unanimous vote of the Board of Supervisors members present this 5th day of December, 2017.



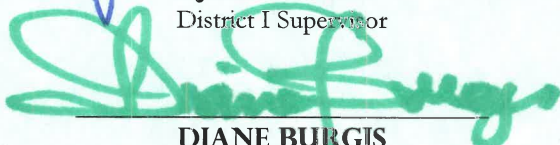
FEDERAL D. GLOVER

Chair,
District V Supervisor



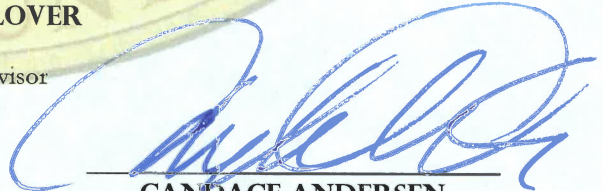
JOHN GIOIA

District I Supervisor



DIANE BURGIS

District III Supervisor



CANDACE ANDERSEN

District II Supervisor



KAREN MITCHOFF

District IV Supervisor



I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown:

ATTESTED: December 5, 2017

DAVID TWA, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors and County Administrator

By Stephanie Melillo, Deputy