

City of Philadelphia



Council of the City of Philadelphia
Office of the Chief Clerk
Room 402, City Hall
Philadelphia

(Resolution No. 070239)

RESOLUTION

Recognizing, honoring and celebrating John F. Collins for his enormous contributions to Philadelphia's urban design and for his creative vision and focus on improving and expanding green spaces for residents and visitors to enjoy.

WHEREAS, John Collins was born in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania on July 12, 1936 to Florence and William Collins; and

WHEREAS, He was awarded a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from the Pennsylvania State University in 1959. In 1961, Collins earned a Masters from Harvard Graduate School of Design; in 1965, he moved to the Mt. Airy neighborhood in Philadelphia, where he lived with his family for 34 years; and

WHEREAS, In 1963, Collins co-founded Adleman Collins & DuTot; in 1965, this firm became Collins & Dutot; and in 1971, Collins co-founded The Delta Group, all of which went on to revitalize Philadelphia's green space and urban environment through a series of award-winning projects; and

WHEREAS, Collins was active in a comprehensive revitalization plan for Society Hill, including "Greenways," which are landscaped walkways that are still in existence today; and

WHEREAS, In 1965, Collins created a master plan for the Fairmount Park Commission, centering around a 1.25 mile park along the Schuylkill River east bank from the Art Museum to South Street; and

WHEREAS, For the next 40 years, Collins continued to work, often on a volunteer basis to realize the vision of Schuylkill River Park, which was dedicated at a lighting ceremony in 2004; and

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WHEREAS, In the 1970s, the Delta Group designed a Fine Arts Plan for the University of Pennsylvania and received numerous awards and honors for their planning and involvement in environmental projects; and

WHEREAS, In 1978, Collins designed the award-winning Chestnut Street Park in Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, In 1982, Collins launched a program to train inmates in urban horticulture skills at the House of Corrections in Philadelphia. The program PLANT—Philadelphia Landscape and Nursery Training—trained inmates to plant and maintain greenery in public spaces; and

WHEREAS, Collins and his partners also played an integral role in 1980s revitalization of Market Street East, including wider sidewalks containing improved bus shelters, updated lighting and freshly planted trees and greenery. Between 5th and Front Streets, Collins' design recaptured the feel of 18th Century Philadelphia. Further, the Delta Group was part of the team that constructed the Irish Memorial at Penn's Landing; and

WHEREAS, Collins has worked on many significant projects beyond the Philadelphia area, including the new town of Reston, Virginia; the master plan for Salem, Massachusetts; numerous streetscape improvements in Baltimore; and the Alaska pipeline; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his career, Collins has educated young professionals as a lecturer, professor, and visiting studio critic at major landscape architecture programs at the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel University, The Pennsylvania State University, Harvard University, Cornell University, the University of Virginia, Louisiana State University, and the school of Architecture and Planning in New Delhi, India; and

WHEREAS, John Collins became Chairman of Temple University's Landscape Architecture and Horticulture Department and continued his involvement in neighborhood revitalization. He created a partnership between the University and PHS Philadelphia Green and Sea Change, Inc. to establish an urban tree farm in North Philadelphia's Cecil B. Moore neighborhood. Furthermore, Collins established a campus greenery program and proposed a Center for Sustainable Environment at Temple University Ambler; and

WHEREAS, Collins' professional achievements as a Landscape Architect were recognized by his peers when the American Society of Landscape Architects named him a Fellow in 1993, its highest award for exceptional work over a sustained time period; and

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WHEREAS, Edmund N. Bacon was quoted in the Philadelphia Inquirer stating, “John Collins deserves the highest accolades for bringing greenery and the finest quality of urban design into Philadelphia,”; and

WHEREAS, On April 26, 2007, Temple University’s Ambler Campus will open a retrospective exhibit honoring the life work of John F. Collins; now therefore

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That Council does hereby recognize honor and celebrate John F. Collins for his enormous contributions to Philadelphia’s urban design and for his creative vision and focus on improving and expanding green spaces for residents and visitors to enjoy.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That an Engrossed copy of this resolution be presented to John F. Collins as evidence of the sincere sentiments and recognition of this legislative body.

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CERTIFICATION: This is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution, Adopted by the Council of the City of Philadelphia on the twenty-ninth of March, 2007.

Anna C. Verna
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Patricia Rafferty
CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Introduced by: Councilmember Kenney, Council President Verna,
Councilmembers DiCicco, Clarke and Miller

Sponsored by: Council President Verna, Councilmembers Kenney, DiCicco,
Clarke, Miller, Rizzo, Greenlee, Savage, Ramos, Goode,
Krajewski, Blackwell, Reynolds Brown and Campbell