

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 15, 2020

Mrs. Thelma G. Driskell
4206 Decatur Street
Hyattsville, Maryland 20781

Dear Mrs. Driskell:

Stacey J. Mobley, Esq., Chairman of Howard University's Board of Trustees, and I respectfully advise you of the adoption of the following resolution by the Howard University Board of Trustees:

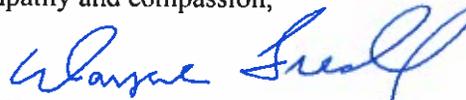
RESOLUTION

The Board of Trustees of Howard University wishes to include in its official record an expression of sincere condolence to Mrs. Thelma G. Driskell on the passing of her beloved husband, Dr. David C. Driskell, world renowned artist, educator, author, art historian and Howard alumnus. The young David Clyde Driskell arrived on Howard's campus intending to study history until Professor James A. Porter, recognizing his talent, convinced him to study art instead. Dr. Driskell graduated in 1955 with a Bachelor of Arts and later earned his Master of Fine Arts from Catholic University. It was not long before the world recognized what Howard University already knew: David C. Driskell was destined for greatness. His work, principally in collage and mixed media, is featured in galleries and museums throughout the world. His artistic genius and expansive knowledge of the art of the African Diaspora made him a phenomenal educator and mentor at Howard and at other universities. He was an internationally sought-after advisor to institutions and individuals as they assembled their art collections. His work as a consultant to "The Cosby Show" is credited with creating a new class of African American art collectors. His profoundly influential exhibition in 1976, "Two Centuries of Black American Art," showcased previously unrecognized contributions of Black artists to the United States and prompted similar shows around the country. His groundbreaking exhibition catalogue introduced mainstream art scholars to African American artists, some for the first time. Dr. Driskell was the recipient of many awards, including the National Humanities Medal from President Clinton in 2000. In 2005, the High Museum of Art established the first national award in his honor to celebrate contributions to the field of African American art. Throughout his career, Dr. Driskell lifted others, including African American women artists and art history scholars. The David C. Driskell Center at the University of Maryland continues his distinguished legacy. We are eternally honored to include Dr. Driskell among our revered alumni: he was a stalwart supporter of Howard, sharing both his time and treasure. Dr. Driskell was the recipient of a Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award (1981) and honorary Doctor of Humanities degree (2010). His lifelong passion for and commitment to *Excellence, Leadership, Truth* and *Service* exemplify Howard University's core values.

Words cannot adequately express our heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Thelma G. Driskell, devoted daughters Daviryne and Daphne; cherished grandchildren and great-grandchildren; Driskell Center staff; and Dr. Driskell's many former students. The Board desires to convey that all our members share in their loss.

Be It Therefore Resolved: This expression of sympathy in response to the death of Dr. David C. Driskell be spread upon the minutes of the Board of Trustees of Howard University.

With sympathy and compassion,



Wayne A. I. Frederick, M.D., MBA
President

