

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS:** The sculptor Augusta Savage, now recognized as one of the country's most influential artists of the 20th century, was born in Green Cove Springs on February 29, 1892. Although her career began with sculpting busts for prominent community members in Jacksonville, her work quickly rose to prominence after she moved to Harlem, New York, in the early 1920s; and

**WHEREAS:** As a black woman, Savage overcame racism and sexism, in addition to her impoverished beginnings, to become a significant figure of the Harlem Renaissance; and

**WHEREAS:** The Harlem Renaissance was an intellectual, social and artistic movement by African-American activists that reached its peak during the mid-1920s; and

**WHEREAS:** Decades later, Savage is best known for "The Harp," a commissioned sculpture for the 1939 World's Fair that was inspired by the poem "Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing," written by James Weldon Johnson, another important figure in Jacksonville history; and

**WHEREAS:** Savage's work, including a bronze replica of "The Harp" (the original was destroyed), is the current subject of The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens' feature exhibition, "Augusta Savage: Renaissance Woman," the largest collection of her art and the largest ever curated by The Cummer. Also featuring the work of her students, the exhibit explores Savage's impact as a pioneering artist, teacher, leader and catalyst for change; and

**WHEREAS:** With February encompassing both Savage's birthday and African-American History Month, it is an appropriate occasion to celebrate her contributions to art and cultural history.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LENNY CURRY,** by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of Jacksonville, Florida, do hereby proclaim February 2019 as

## **AUGUSTA SAVAGE MONTH**

in Jacksonville and encourage all citizens to join me in learning more about and celebrating this influential figure in local and national history.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of January  
in the year Two Thousand 19

*Lenny Curry*

MAYOR

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA