



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, it is the public policy of the State of New Jersey to support diversity and inclusion in all aspects of life; and

WHEREAS in the Spring of 2021, Monmouth University, through of the University President's Council on Diversity and Inclusion, launched a new initiative known as Monmouth Artists for Diversity and Inclusion (MADI), which was co-founded and developed by Monmouth University professors Lawrence Jones, Joseph Rapolla and Rashida-Scott Cruz; and

WHEREAS, with the support of Monmouth University President Patrick Leahy, and the President's Council on Diversity and Inclusion (Zaneta Rego-Craft, Chairperson), the purpose of MADI was to develop a forum for University students and other persons affiliated with the University to constructively, creatively and artistically express and share their viewpoints, commentaries and experiences on relevant social issues relating to and supporting diversity, inclusion and belonging; and

WHEREAS, at its inception in the Spring of 2021, a number of dedicated Monmouth University students came together under the guidance of the above-named professors to form the founding membership of MADI, and with additional creative contributions and input from Professors George Wurzbach, Connor Hanson, and Michael Flannery, and Kelly Barratt (Assistant Director, Monmouth University Center for the Arts), proceeded to share and contribute their visions, talents and teamwork, in furtherance of creating MADI's debut musical album (EP), known as "MADI Volume I"; and

WHEREAS, the initial founding members of MADI included Monmouth University students Ezra Archie, William "BJ" Biedbach, Shadiyah Jai Belton, Kendall Brighton, Kayla Booker, Hassan Chambers, Emmanuel Christian, Ben Davis, Michelle Etienne, Amanda Hayes, , Jenae Louis-Jacques, Connor Rupp, Dillon Schindler, Vic Tartara, and Max Wolf, with additional contributions from fellow students Nicole Totland, Megan Rice and Connie Chianetta, resulting in the creation, production and release of MADI Volume I; and

WHEREAS, MADI Volume I represents a significant and meaningful work of social art and advocacy which has gathered significant interest in the community and New Jersey media, and is an outstanding contribution to the State of New Jersey's renowned and rich musical history;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey do hereby recognize:

## Monmouth Artists for Diversity and Inclusion

the State of New Jersey hereby proudly recognizes and honors MADI and its participants at Monmouth University upon the release of its debut album in 2021, which serves as a significant educational example of how college students can creatively, constructively and effectively use artistic expression to impactfully support themes of diversity, inclusion and belonging in an educational manner in our society.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twenty-seventh day of October in the year two thousand twenty-one, the two hundred forty-sixth year of the Independence of the United States.

  
Lt. GOVERNOR

  
GOVERNOR