RESOLVED, that the Graduate Center award Robert Wilson the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, at the college's Annual Commencement ceremony on May 23, 2013.

EXPLANATION: Mr. Wilson is widely acknowledged as the theatre's leading avant-garde director and playwright. He is also a celebrated painter, sculptor, designer, and video artist, known for his trend-setting work as performer, choreographer, and sound and lighting director. Wilson's devotion to arts capacity to astound and to remake the way we see the world makes him a model for our graduates.

It would be difficult to find another artist of today whose career encompasses as broad a swath of “humane letters” as does Robert Wilson’s. Widely acknowledged as the theatre’s leading avant-garde director and playwright, he is also a celebrated painter, sculptor, designer, and video artist, who has done trend-setting work as performer, choreographer, and sound and lighting director. He is perhaps best known for having created, with composer Philip Glass, the monumental and tradition-shattering opera Einstein on the Beach.

Wilson is described by the New York Times as “a towering figure in the world of experimental theater . . . an explorer of the uses of time and space onstage.” Megacritic Susan Sontag called his career “a major artistic creation,” adding, “I can’t think of any body of work as large or as influential.”

Born in Waco, Texas, Wilson is a graduate of the University of Texas who came to New York in 1963 and earned a degree in interior design at Pratt Institute. In 1968, he founded the experimental performance company Byrd Hoffman School of Byrds in downtown Manhattan. There, he mounted such early signature works as Deafman Glance and The Life and Times of Sigmund Freud, creating a theatre of images that shunned narrative in austere productions lasting many hours and marked by his distinctive slow, deliberate pace and vast sets.

After the enthusiastic reception of Einstein’s 1976 premieres in France and at New York’s Metropolitan Opera, Wilson’s work took him to Europe, where he created original pieces for such venues as the Festival d’Automne in Paris, the Berliner Ensemble, Hamburg’s Thalia Theater, and the Salzburg Festival. Although only separate sections of his most ambitious project have been seen by the public, the twelve-hour-long the CIVIL warS, created for the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Arts Festival, earned a Pulitzer Prize nomination.

Wilson has also brought his singular formal concepts to the operatic repertoire with productions at the Metropolitan, La Scala, and the opera houses of Zurich, Hamburg, Houston, and Los Angeles. His drawings, furniture designs, and installations have been displayed at museums and galleries throughout the world. Retrospective exhibitions were featured by the Centre George Pompidou in Paris and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and he has mounted his installations at the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam and the Guggenheim Museum in New York and Bilbao.

Among Wilson’s awards and honors are an Obie for direction, the Golden Lion for sculpture from the Venice Biennale, the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Prize for Lifetime Achievement, the National Design Award for Lifetime Achievement, two Guggenheim Fellowships, and the Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship Award. He has been named a “Commandeur des arts et des lettres” by the French Minister of Culture.