

## 2011-J87

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to commemorate those events of historical significance which add strength, vigor and inspiration to the cultural diversity and quality of life in the communities of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, it is the sense of this Legislative Body to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation; and

WHEREAS, The Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation ("The Foundation") was first designated as an IRS-recognized 501(c)3 non-profit organization on January 18, 1990; and

WHEREAS, The Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation was established to provide an outlet for art work that is unambiguously gay and which is frequently denied access to mainstream venues; and

WHEREAS, The Foundation's first public exhibition after achieving non-profit status was Gerhardt Liebmann: Works on Paper from September 4-22, 1990; since then, the Foundation has had more than 200 exhibitions of work by approximately 1,000 artists; and

WHEREAS, For the past 20 years, Leslie/Lohman has been the vanguard in exhibiting, preserving and promoting explicitly gay art; and

WHEREAS, There is no other organization in the world like the Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation; it has a collection of more than 4,000 artworks spanning three centuries of gay and lesbian art; it displays frequent exhibitions of contemporary and historical LGBT artists; and its publication, THE ARCHIVE, is the only one of its kind dedicated to the discussion of gay art and artists; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, frequent lectures, tours and other special

events are held throughout the year; this organization is the premier source for anyone interested in the rich art legacy of the LGBT community and its influence on the mainstream art world; and

WHEREAS, The Foundation's Leslie/Lohman Gallery mounts several annual exhibitions of work in all media by LGBT (and straight) artists with an emphasis on subject matter that speaks directly to gay and lesbian experience, including, erotic, political, romantic, and social imagery and providing special support for emerging and underrepresented artists; and WHEREAS, Prior to the establishment of the Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation there was the J. Frederic Lohman, Ltd. Gallery at 55 Wooster Street; it was then moved and renamed the Leslie-Lohman Gallery at 485 Broome Street; both were nominally commercial enterprises established out of love and concern for art, eventually becoming an enclave for gay art; it closed in 1981; and

WHEREAS, Apart from its own programming, The Foundation regularly lends its gallery space to other LGBT organizations for events, exhibitions, and fundraisers such as GMHC, Housing Works, Fresh Fruit Festival, All Out Arts, Silvia Rivera Law Project, The Rema Hort Mann Foundation, The Ali Forney Center, and The LGBT Community Center; and

WHEREAS, The Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation has collaborated on programming and exhibitions with a variety of partners, including: City University of New York, The LGBT Community Center, Contemporary Arts Center of New Orleans, and Central Connecticut State University; and

WHEREAS, The Foundation has provided, free of charge, a venue for the book launch events for dozens of publications by LGBT authors and artists; moreover, it has hosted dozens of staged readings of LGBT themed stage plays and screen plays, providing authors, actors and

directors with a space to work out creative problems in front of a live audience; and

WHEREAS, The Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation has hosted dozens of evenings of music, poetry, and performance art, and has organized and

held numerous scholarly lectures by writers, academics and artists on a wide variety of topics related to its exhibitions; and

WHEREAS, Beginning in 2009, the Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation has devoted its 40 feet of street front window space to four annual exhibitions of art by emerging LGBT artists under the age of 30; and

WHEREAS, Our society is greatly benefited by the purposeful efforts of individuals who unite for the cause of improving the quality of life for others, and who proactively work toward the goal of dignity for all; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Leslie/Lohman Gay Art Foundation.