

2013-J4072

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 25th Anniversary of 651 ARTS, to be celebrated on May 1, 2014

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those institutions which give positive definition to the profile and disposition of the communities of the State of New York profoundly strengthen our society with their commitment; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of 651 ARTS, to be celebrated on Thursday, May 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, 651 ARTS is a Brooklyn, New York, -based arts presenter of theater, dance, and music established to deepen awareness of and appreciation for contemporary performing arts and culture of the African Diaspora, and to provide professional and creative opportunities for performing artists of African descent; and

WHEREAS, For 25 remarkable years, this dynamic cultural organization has fulfilled its unique mission, presenting live dance, music and theater events in venues throughout Brooklyn, maintaining a robust educational program that provides unique opportunities for youth in public schools to engage with professional artists from around the globe, and investing in artists by providing financial and other needed resources; and

WHEREAS, In addition, 651 ARTS supports exchange between United States-based and African artists in both the United States and Africa; and

WHEREAS, Leveraging years of experience and leadership, 651 ARTS advocates for artists, develops projects that impact the field of performing arts, and provides expertise about the artists and art forms of the

African Diaspora to the community; and

WHEREAS, In the 25 years since its founding in 1988, 651 ARTS has served the cultural life of New York City; from its auspicious inaugural season which began with THE SAVOY BALLROOM, a program that recreated the Big Band era, to more recent offerings, such as 2007-2008's Mississippi Delta Heritage Project, a two-week festival that examined the vibrant and rich connections between the Delta Blues and the diverse musical genres of gospel and jazz, and this year's Companhia Urbana de Danca, a mix of contemporary Brazilian dance and hip-hop, the organization has truly showcased the beauty, diversity, and tremendous cultural gifts of artists of African descent; and

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body recognizes the importance of the arts, which act to inspire, enlighten, and unify people from all cultural backgrounds through the transcendent power of human expression; and

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those organizations whose endeavors and artistic vision have contributed to the entertainment and cultural enrichment of the citizens of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of 651 ARTS, and to wish it continued success in future years; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to 651 ARTS.