

## 2015-J610

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Queens Council on the Arts to be celebrated on February 26, 2015

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, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Queens Council on the Arts to be celebrated at its 2015 Anniversary Kickoff "Casino Caliente" on Thursday, February 26, 2015, at the Paper Factory Hotel, Long Island City, New York; and

WHEREAS, Established in 1966 by leader organizations in the borough's cultural community, with the guidance of Jeanne Dale Katz, the Queens Council on the Arts is a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering and developing the arts in Queens County, and supporting individual artists and arts organizations in presenting their cultural diversity for the benefit of the community; and

WHEREAS, The Queens Symphony Orchestra, Queens Opera Association, Queens Borough Public Library, Oratorio Society, Queensborough Community College, and St. John's University, among other visionary institutions, came together to form the Queens Council on the Arts as an umbrella organization to promote cultural growth and the development of the arts in Queens, and to help artists and groups present the borough's diverse cultural resources to Queens residents as well as the larger community; and

WHEREAS, In the 1960s, the Queens Council on the Arts strived to establish free concerts in the parks; over the next decade, this worthy

organization fostered the development of the Queens Museum, Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning, and Colden Center, among other important institutions; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, the Queens Council on the Arts began to administrate the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs' Greater New York Arts Development Fund, to which it soon added the New York State Council on the Arts Decentralization Program funds; since then, it has played a key role in directing city, state, federal, and private funds to emerging artists and organizations in Queens for the benefit of the community; and

WHEREAS, In the 1980s, the Queens Council on the Arts established the Arts Education, Queens Community Arts Fund, and Folk Arts programs, and took on the management for the Queens Theatre in the Park, a role that extended until 1997; today, the Council remains committed to supporting programs and activities that directly serve the citizens of Queens and enhance the cultural and artistic climate of the borough; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Queens Council on the Arts improves the cultural quality of life for the community by supporting individual artists and artist groups borough-wide through local programming such as Professional Development Workshops, High School to Arts School Portfolio Development Programs, and the recent 3rd Space programming in its new home located at the Kaufman Arts District in Astoria, Queens; and

WHEREAS, Since its inception, the Queens Council on the Arts has grown into a wide-ranging arts service organization providing grants, professional development, and education services; in recent years, it has innovated a wide variety of programming and events, including Project Diversity Queens, the Individual and Teaching Artist Initiatives, and the Arts in the Schools grant program; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the Queens Council on the Arts has awarded a significant amount of grants to artists and arts organizations, provided arts education to more than a million Queens schoolchildren, and

produced and presented numerous exhibitions as well as guides, brochures, and maps of art sites in Queens; currently, its workshops, website, and TV broadcasts reach more than 300,000 individuals each year; and

WHEREAS, The Queens Council on the Arts has been the recipient of many awards and accolades including the Arts and Business Council Award, Governor's Award for the Arts, Mayor's Award for Arts and Culture, and the Arts and Business Council Encore Award; in 2000, its publication THE INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS -- A GUIDE TO ETHNIC COMMUNITIES ALONG THE #7 TRAIN won a National Millennium Heritage Trail designation, and received a Municipal Arts Society Certificate of Merit in 2005; and

WHEREAS, It is most fitting that we take time to celebrate the arts of our Nation, to honor our artists, and to express our appreciation to everyone who patronizes the arts; and as we celebrate the arts, we celebrate and give thanks to our American freedom, the only atmosphere in which artists can truly create and in which art is truly the expression of the soul; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Queens Council on the Arts to be celebrated on February 26, 2015; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Queens Council on the Arts.