

2015-J4416

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending the Brooklyn Arts Council upon the occasion of celebrating its 50th Anniversary and paying tribute to this year's honorees on May 3, 2016

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 commend the Brooklyn Arts Council upon the occasion of celebrating its 50th Anniversary at a Alive with Art Gala on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, at 26 Bridge, Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Suzan-Lori Parks and Ben Lovett will be recognized for their lasting contributions to arts, culture and education for the local community; and

WHEREAS, For five decades, Brooklyn Arts Council (BAC) has fostered the cultural life of Brooklyn; founded in 1966, in the basement of Flatbush resident Charlene Victor, BAC's first event was a small film festival held that same year in Prospect Park; and

WHEREAS, Today BAC offers the residents of Brooklyn a wealth of arts programming and support services in education, professional development, grant-making, fiscal sponsorship, film and media arts and folk/traditional arts; and

WHEREAS, A graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Suzan-Lori Parks was a resident at New Dramatists, a non-profit organization which gives playwrights time and space, in the company of gifted peers, to create work, realize their artistic potential, and make lasting contributions to the theatre; and

WHEREAS, Named one of TIME magazine's "100 Innovators for the Next New Wave," Suzan-Lori Parks became the first African American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize in Drama for her Broadway hit "Topdog/Underdog"; and

WHEREAS, A MacArthur "Genius" Award recipient, Suzan-Lori Parks was awarded grants by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts; and

WHEREAS, In addition, this remarkable woman is the recipient of a Lila-Wallace Reader's Digest Award, a 1996 CalArts/Alpert Award in the Arts (Drama), and a Guggenheim Foundation Grant; and

WHEREAS, Suzan-Lori Parks' outstanding book adaptation of the Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess" helped the show earn the 2012 Tony Award for Best Revival; in 2007, her play, "365 Plays/365 Days" was produced in over 700 theaters worldwide, creating one of the largest grassroots collaborations in theater history; and

WHEREAS, In addition, this talented author has written several screenplays, and was the author of the 2003 novel, GETTING MOTHER'S BODY; she also acted in a fictional-documentary "...Plus One" which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in 2009; and

WHEREAS, Suzan-Lori Parks' projects include her Ray Charles musical, "Unchain My Heart," scheduled to premiere on Broadway, and she's working on a new musical, the next installments of Father Comes Home, and a project for television; and

WHEREAS, A talented musician, Ben Lovett composed the music for "The Signal", an Independent Spirit Award nominee and enduring cult favorite which was showcased at the Sundance Film Festival; and

WHEREAS, Ben Lovett then went on to write and perform original scores for a wide range of theatrically-released feature films which include "Black Rock", a Sundance hit written starring Kate Bosworth and Lake Bell produced by the Duplass Brothers; the critical favorite and

Gotham-Award nominee "Sun Don't Shine" from director Amy Seimetz; Dan Fogler's psychedelic cult comedy "Don Peyote"; and the action thriller "Isolation" starring Stephen Lang, Dominic Purcell, and Tricia Helfer; and

WHEREAS, A prolific film composer, Ben Lovett's luminous career began with the film "Last Goodbye" starring Faye Dunaway and the late David Carradine, a film that debuted to praise at the Tribeca Film Festival in 2005, and "The Last Lullaby", a noir-drama starring Tom Sizemore, which captured the Award for Best Original Score at the 2009 Brooklyn International Film Festival; and

WHEREAS, Ben Lovett was awarded Best Original Score for the short film "Ghost Of Old Highways" at the Madrid International and the Charlotte Film Festivals and received widespread praise for his work on the recent science fiction dramas, "Synchronicity" and "The Reconstruction Of William Zero"; and

WHEREAS, A man of many talents, his work seems to cross every genre while remaining distinctly modern and untraditional; in addition to writing scores, Ben Lovett has composed complete works for multiple television films such as MTV's "My Super Psycho Sweet Sixteen" trilogy, and underscored music for various network programs like Cartoon Network's "Toonami" and "Adult Swim"; as well as custom branding music for clients ranging from VH1 to H&M to Disney; and

WHEREAS, A true musical genius, Ben Lovett has been the recipient of multiple awards and worldwide recognition for numerous collaborative musical and visual projects; and

WHEREAS, It is most fitting that we take time to celebrate the arts of our Nation, to honor artists, such as Suzan-Lori Parks and Ben Lovett, 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

commend the Brooklyn Arts Council upon the occasion of celebrating its 50th Anniversary and paying tribute to this year's honorees on May 3, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Suzan-Lori Parks, Ben Lovett, and Charlotte Cohen, Executive

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Director, Brooklyn Arts Council.