

## 2017-J5336

Senate Resolution No. 5336

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING Brooklyn Academy of Music upon the occasion of hosting the 2018 DanceAfrica Festival from May 25-28, 2018

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to call attention to those events which serve to enhance the cultural enrichment of the State of New York and preserve the heritage of African Americans; 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 Academy of Music upon the occasion of hosting the 2018 DanceAfrica Festival, to be celebrated from May 25-28, 2018, at the Peter Jay Sharp Building in the Howard Gilman Opera House in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) is a multi-faceted arts center committed to serving the Brooklyn community; for over 150 years, it has provided world-class programming in theater, dance, music, opera, and film, while showcasing the work of emerging artists and innovative modern masters; and

WHEREAS, Now in its 41st year, DanceAfrica is the nation's largest festival dedicated to the various traditions of African dance; under the luminous leadership of Artistic Director, Abdel R. Salaam, this year's

performance entitled "Remembrance, Reconciliation, Renewal," offers a taste of the rhythm and spirit of South Africa, acknowledging Nelson Mandela's Centennial Birthday and the contributions of freedom fighters past and present; and

WHEREAS, South African supergroup Ingoma KwaZulu-Natal Dance Company brings traditional movement idioms alongside the contemporary stylings of Durban-based Siwela Sonke Dance Theatre; they are joined by the BAM/Restoration Dance Youth Ensemble and, together, rejoice in the transcendent power of movement and music in a range of forms and traditions; and

WHEREAS, This special curated program draws parallels between South African anti-apartheid and American civil rights movements, portraying the struggles for justice and, ultimately, serving up triumphant celebrations of culture; and

WHEREAS, This esteemed cultural event brings together performance, art, film, and an array of community events for an exhilarating celebration of the unique contributions of Africa and the African Diaspora; and

WHEREAS, The DanceAfrica Arts Festival is a cherished event which provides a uniquely warm and safe environment in which to enjoy the music, dance, arts, crafts, flavors, colors, laughter and love of the African Diaspora with family and visitors from across the globe; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Brooklyn Academy of Music upon the occasion of hosting the 2018 DanceAfrica Festival from May 25-28, 2018; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Abdel R. Salaam, Artistic Director, Brooklyn Academy of Music.