

2015-J1106

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Ishmael Houston-Jones upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of The Passing it On Award by the Brooklyn Arts Exchange Arts and Artists in Progress

WHEREAS, It is the practice of this Legislative Body to honor and recognize those individuals whose commitment and creative talents contribute to the cultural enrichment of their communities and of the entire 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 honor Ishmael Houston-Jones upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of The Passing it On Award, to be celebrated at the 14th Annual Brooklyn Arts Exchange Arts and Artists in Progress Awards Ceremony, on Saturday, March 28, 2015, at the Brooklyn Arts Exchange Building, Park Slope, Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, The Brooklyn Arts Exchange (BAX) Arts and Artists in Progress awards recognize individuals in the arts who have revealed and transformed their creative works; by instigating change, they have deepened the definition of their field and paved the way for others; and

WHEREAS, These distinguished awards are given to some of the most talented, generous, creative, and inventive persons in New York City dance, theater or performance; each awardee is then asked to Pass it On, honoring a colleague who demonstrates the same qualities for which they, themselves, were chosen; and

WHEREAS, Choreographer, author, teacher, performer, and arts activist, Ishmael Houston-Jones received the Pass it On Award from frequent collaborator, Yvonne Meier, who was the recipient of the auspicious Performing Arts Award by BAX; and

WHEREAS, Ishmael Houston-Jones' improvised dance and text work has

been performed all over the globe, including New York City, throughout the United States, Europe, Canada, Australia, and Latin America; and WHEREAS, Along with colleague Fred Holland, Ishmael Houston-Jones was the recipient of the Bessie Award for "Cowboys, Dreams and Ladders"; in addition, in 1985, he won the Bessie Award for "THEM", a collaboration with writer Dennis Cooper and composer Chris Cochrane; and WHEREAS, "THEM", an incendiary work which addresses some of the many ways men could be with men, has been seen at several venues, including PS 122, the American Realness Festival in New York City, Springdance in Utrecht, Centre Pompidou in Paris, HAU 2 with the TanzimAugust festival in Berlin, and REDCAP in Los Angeles, and at TAP Poitiers, in France; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent of this Legislative Body to pay tribute to those individuals who add strength, vigor and inspiration to the cultural diversity and quality of life in the communities of the State of New York; 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 honor Ishmael Houston-Jones upon the occasion of his designation as recipient of The Passing it On Award by the Brooklyn Arts Exchange Arts and Artists in Progress; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Ishmael Houston-Jones.