

2015-J1478

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Karen Brooks Hopkins upon the occasion of retiring as President of the Brooklyn Academy of Music

WHEREAS, This Legislative Body seeks to acknowledge those individuals whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature 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 Karen Brooks Hopkins upon the occasion of retiring as President of the Brooklyn Academy of Music to be celebrated at a special tribute held in her honor on Tuesday, April 28, 2015; and

WHEREAS, For the past 36 years, Karen Brooks Hopkins rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM); and

WHEREAS, In 1979, Karen Brooks Hopkins began working for BAM as a Development Officer under the leadership of then-President/Executive Producer Harvey Lichtenstein; upon his retirement in 1999, she was selected to the esteemed position of President; and

WHEREAS, For more than 150 years, BAM, a multi-arts center located in Brooklyn, New York, has been the home for adventurous artists, audiences, and ideas, engaging both global and local communities; this vital organization showcases the work of emerging artists and innovative modern masters in world-renowned programming in theater, dance, music, opera, film, and much more; and

WHEREAS, In her role as President, Karen Brooks Hopkins oversaw the Academy's 230 full-time employees and facilities, including the 2,100-seat Howard Gilman Opera House, the 833-seat BAM Harvey Theater, the four-theater BAM Rose Cinemas, the BAMcafe, and the BAM Fisher building which houses the 250-seat flexible Fishman Space; and

WHEREAS, Under Karen Brooks Hopkins' luminous leadership, BAM has grown into a global arts presenter, attracting an annual audience of 750,000 people, at the center of the thriving Brooklyn cultural district; and

WHEREAS, In May of 2004, Karen Brooks Hopkins concluded a two-year term as the Chair of The Cultural Institutions Group (CIG), which consists of 33 prominent New York City cultural institutions; in this capacity, she also served as a member of the Mayor of New York City's Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission, and is currently a member of the Boards of NYC & Company, the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, and the Global Cultural Districts Network; and

WHEREAS, One year later, she held the position of Chair of the Hospitality and Tourism cluster of the Initiative for a Competitive Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, From 2006-2010, Karen Brooks Hopkins served as a member of the New York State Board of Regents; and

WHEREAS, In 2007, Karen Brooks Hopkins was appointed Commander of the Royal Order of the Polar Star, in recognition of her role in solidifying ties between the performing arts communities of Sweden and the United States; and

WHEREAS, For four years, Karen Brooks Hopkins was employed as an Adjunct Professor for the Brooklyn College Program for Arts Administration; she also authored the well-known book, **SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING FOR ARTS & CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS**; and

WHEREAS, This remarkable woman has been the recipient of numerous awards and accolades, including the Encore Award in Arts Management Excellence from the Arts & Business Council of New York, a medal from the Royal Dramatic Theater of Sweden, the King Olav Medal from the

Norwegian National Ballet, and the Chevalier de L'Ordre des arts et des Lettres by the Republic of France, as well as an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from St. Francis College, Brooklyn; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, in 2007, Karen Brooks Hopkins was named both one of the 100 Most Influential Women in New York City Business, and one of the 50 Most Powerful Women in New York by CRAIN'S CHICAGO BUSINESS; in 2013, she was designated a Woman of Achievement by the Women in Development; and

WHEREAS, For the past 36 years, Karen Brooks Hopkins rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to BAM, serving with loyalty, honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, In her official acts, Karen Brooks Hopkins was governed by a keen sense of duty, and always showed a unique grasp of human problems which earned her the admiration, esteem and affection of her colleagues; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Karen Brooks Hopkins upon the occasion of retiring as President of the Brooklyn Academy of Music; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Karen Brooks Hopkins.