

2015-J3938

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of The Olana Partnership

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched by its exceptional cultural, educational and recreational institutions and the organizations which support them; these organizations give positive definition to the profile and disposition of the communities of the State of New York and profoundly strengthen our society with their commitment; 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 Olana Partnership; and

WHEREAS, Widely considered the greatest masterpiece of Frederic Edwin Church, the preeminent American artist of the mid-19th Century, the Olana State Historic Site is one of the most important artist's homes, studios and designed landscapes in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Olana was originally designed by Frederick Edwin Church as a holistic environment integrating his advanced ideas about art, architecture, landscape design, and environmental conservation; its 250 acres of artist-designed landscape includes a house inspired by Persian styles which sits at a summit of a hill featuring unrivaled panoramic views of the Hudson Valley; and

WHEREAS, The Olana Partnership is a private not-for-profit educational corporation which works cooperatively with New York State to support the restoration, conservation, and interpretation of Olana State Historic Site; and

WHEREAS, In June of 1966, the New York State legislature passed a bill authorizing the purchase of the Olana estate, with an organization known

as Olana Preservation, Inc. contributing funds to its opening as a New York State Historic Site in June of 1967; and

WHEREAS, Olana Preservation, Inc. disbanded shortly thereafter, but several of its key members rejoined to start the nonprofit Friends of Olana in 1971; this organization later changed its name to The Olana Partnership in 2000; and

WHEREAS, Dedicated to inspiring the public by preserving and interpreting Frederic Church's artistic masterwork, The Olana Partnership continues to play an integral role in supporting New York State's Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation efforts at Olana; and

WHEREAS, In addition, The Olana Partnership is committed to providing continuous operational support by offering on-site curatorial and archival staff, and landscape maintenance, as well as managing the gift store and membership program; and

WHEREAS, Today, the Olana State Historic Site is a designated National Historic Landmark and one of the most visited sites in the state with more than 150,000 visitors annually; and

WHEREAS, The expert members and staff of The Olana Partnership, are and always have been characterized by an impressive commitment, an unbridled enthusiasm, and an uncompromising standard of excellence, and accordingly merit the commendation of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of The Olana Partnership; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Olana Partnership.