

## 2015-J4139

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commending Bethel Woods Center for the Arts upon the occasion of being ranked the No. 1 amphitheater in New York State by POLLSTAR magazine

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those cultural institutions and organizations whose commitment to promoting the richness and diversity of the arts and entertainment world has contributed to the strength, vitality, and cultural enrichment of their communities and the great 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 Bethel Woods Center for the Arts upon the occasion of being ranked the No. 1 amphitheater in New York State by POLLSTAR magazine; and

WHEREAS, POLLSTAR magazine is a 30 year old trade journal which covers the worldwide concert industry; it serves concert promoters, booking agents, artist managers, venue executives and other professionals involved in the live entertainment industry; and

WHEREAS, Located in Sullivan County, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts inspires, educates, and empowers individuals through the arts and humanities by presenting a diverse selection of culturally-rich performances, popular artists, and community and educational programming; and

WHEREAS, Located 90 miles from New York City, the lush 800-acre campus includes a Pavilion Stage amphitheater with seating for 15,000, an intimate 440-seat indoor Event Gallery, the award-winning Museum at Bethel Woods, and a Conservatory for arts education programming; and

WHEREAS, The POLLSTAR rank is based on attendance figures from the 2015 season; between May and September, more than 200,000 people attended performances at the Bethel Woods Pavilion; and

WHEREAS, In addition to being ranked the No. 1 amphitheater in New

York State, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is ranked No. 29 on POLLSTAR magazine's Top 100 Amphitheaters Worldwide for 2015; and WHEREAS, Since opening in 2006, nearly two million people have visited the cultural center and enjoyed the surrounding splendor; this has encouraged additional investment in the area and led to the opening of many new businesses; these new economic drivers are generating jobs, driving tourism revenue, and helping put the Sullivan County Catskills back on the map; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to the community, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts has directly generated full-time, part-time and seasonal operational jobs, not only within the organization, but throughout the area; in 2015, the Center employed approximately 180 paid seasonal staff and more than 250 Ovation's food service staff on site; and

WHEREAS, The 17th Annual Harvest Festival, a treasured Sullivan County tradition, has grown from a small farmers' market with a handful of products, to a full-scale festival, attracting thousands each Sunday with an ever greater mix of local farmers, crafters and artisans; and

WHEREAS, The Craft Beer Festival, Wine Festival and Holiday Market also saw increases in attendance, vendors and offerings; and

WHEREAS, New to 2015, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts introduced a Teaching Artist Program, hiring educators to facilitate the Saturday at the Woods program, bringing new employment opportunities to Sullivan County; and

WHEREAS, As Bethel Woods Center for the Arts looks back with great pride to its beginnings, viewing, with just satisfaction, its successful evolution, it renews both its dedication to supporting artistic excellence, and its commitment to the community it has served since 2006,

expressing its appreciation to all those who have helped to sustain and enhance it over the years; and

WHEREAS, The arts are the building blocks of civilization; they are central to human expression; they enlighten us and inspire the imagina-

tion; educational institutions, individuals, and organizations which further such worthy purposes richly merit the recognition and appreciation of this Legislative Body and the people of the State of New York; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend Bethel Woods Center for the Arts upon the occasion of being ranked the No. 1 amphitheater in New York State by POLLSTAR magazine; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Bethel Woods Center for the Arts.