

## 2015-J4618

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION honoring Julianne Ramos upon the occasion of her retirement after 32 years of dedicated and distinguished service to the Rockland Center for the Arts

WHEREAS, Individuals who distinguish themselves in their profession and in service to their community and the arts merit the recognition and appreciation of their colleagues, community, and the people 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 honor Julianne Ramos upon the occasion of her retirement after 32 years of dedicated and distinguished service to the Rockland Center for the Arts; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, this esteemed woman began her illustrious career with the Rockland Center for the Arts (RoCA) serving as Executive Director; and

WHEREAS, Julianne Ramos served with loyalty, honor and distinction, and for over three decades, rendered faithful, conscientious and valuable service to RoCA; and

WHEREAS, In her official acts as Executive Director, Julianne Ramos brought numerous highly regarded performing arts series in various genres to RoCA; and

WHEREAS, Several musical series included the Tappan Zee Chamber Series which hosted performances by such string quartets as The Concord, Members of the Guarneri, and The Tokyo, the Two's A Crowd Jazz Series which presented the Pizzarellis and Billy Taylor and music and jazz ensembles such as The Young Lions of Gypsy Jazz; and

WHEREAS, Literary performing arts series included The Arts of Biography which brought writers Doris Kearns Goodwin, Toni Morrison, Susan

Cheever, John Leonard and Robert Caro to speak about their subjects and Live Readings of Loved Fiction which presented readings by actors Bill Murray, Joan Cusack, Ellen Burstyn and William Hurt; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Julianne Ramos' Off-Off Center brought performance artists Tony Oursler, Constance DeJong, and Pat Oleszko, in original works; and

WHEREAS, During Julianne Ramos' tenure, the Arts in Education outreach program started with a small grant more than 20 years ago, and now serves 2,000 students every year, including those in the East Ramapo School District which eliminated art and music to save money; and

WHEREAS, Julianne Ramos also established a scholarship fund to provide access to RoCA's Art School and Day Camp for adults and children who could not otherwise attend; and

WHEREAS, Under Julianne Ramos' illustrious leadership, RoCA received a substantial state Economic Development grant which paid for capital repairs and improvements including a new roof, refinishing and re-tiling the swimming pool, new wheels for the ceramic studio and the installation of a new electronic front door; RoCA also won a Strategic Improvement Grant and raised additional monies to build a new painting studio, and enlarge and improve the existing ceramic studio; and

WHEREAS, Julianne Ramos has been called upon to contribute her time and talents to countless civic and charitable endeavors and has always given of herself unstintingly; and

WHEREAS, Selected to manage the Rockland County Art in Public Places program for which she serves as the administrator, Julianne Ramos plans to keep that post after she retires as well as a part-time position with the Queens Council on the Arts' Artist Peer Circle; and

WHEREAS, In her retirement, Julianne Ramos plans to stay in her West Nyack home so she can be close to her children and grandchildren; she also hopes to continue working on a historical novel set in Puerto Rico, where she and her late husband, Dr. Federico Ramos-Yordan, a local

surgeon, lived for many years; 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 honor Julianne Ramos upon the occasion of her retirement after 32 years of dedicated and distinguished service to the Rockland Center for the Arts; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Julianne Ramos.