

## 2015-J5587

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the New York Dance Festival "Coming Home" from July 20-22, 2016

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to honor and pay tribute to those individuals and organizations whose creative talents and commitment have contributed to the success and progress of society and publicly acknowledge their endeavors which have enhanced the basic humanity among us all; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the New York Dance Festival "Coming Home" from July 20-22, 2016, in Auburn, New York; and

WHEREAS, This auspicious occasion will be feted with a myriad of events to be held from July 20-22, 2016; the celebration will be kicked off with a 25 Year "Talk Around", an incredible reunion including story-telling, viewing of rare photos, and unearthed footage from the New York Institute of Dance and Education's archives; and

WHEREAS, On July 21, 2016, a 25 Year Kaleidoscope Dance Theatre Concert will be held, featuring both present and former company members; finally on July 22, 2016, the 25th Annual "A Day in Dance" Gala Celebration will highlight appearances by past and present International Faculty of the Festival and participants of the Festival throughout its 25 year history; and

WHEREAS, In 1990, Sean McLeod, an internationally known producer, choreographer and conceptual consultant of business, established the precursor to today's New York Dance Festival at the New York Dance Studio in Auburn, New York; and

WHEREAS, One year later, Sean McLeod forged a partnership with Cayuga Community College's, Director of Student Services Joy Shortell, and past

college President Dr. Larry Poole, along with Purchase Conservatory of Dance alum to create this artistic platform; additional guest artists invited to join the faculty included Laurie Lubeck, from the American Ballet Theatre; and Sheryl Woodmansee, from the Washington Ballet; to teach in sessions twice a year, known as the Kaleidoscope Dance Theatre Winter and Summer Dance Intensives; and

WHEREAS, Shortly after that time, Thomas Warfield and Roxanna Young were brought in to teach the classic styles of modern dance, ballet, and dance composition they learned while studying at the Purchase Conservatory of Dance, just outside of New York City; and

WHEREAS, In 1999, the name was changed, and the New York Dance Festival was established; throughout the last 25 years, the Festival has grown in notoriety and size for providing an ever-increasing roster of opportunities through its world-class faculty, collaborative initiatives, presentational genres, and corporate economic partnerships; and

WHEREAS, For over two decades, Sean McLeod and his incredible staff have empowered people and helped them build their self-esteem; at the New York Dance Festival women and men of all ages work in an environment where consistent focus is given to correcting the tradition that a person has to be broken by the industry before they can find their greatness; and

WHEREAS, The festival is a two week experience like none other with eight and a half hours of dance a day with master classes in Modern, Ballet, Hip Hop, MT Afro Hip Hop, Tap, African, Reinforced Motor Function, and the McLeod Technique; with three different levels, beginner, intermediate, and advanced, no one is overlooked or put through the emotional trials of an audition; and

WHEREAS, The innovative and successful program is based on the emotional safety of its participants, which is reflected in the New York Institute of Dance and Education's philosophy that successful teaching requires paying equal attention to the heart of every participant; and

WHEREAS, The New York Dance Festival strives to instill positive emotional development and good mental health into its teachings; good dancing is not its goal, it is only a vehicle; and

WHEREAS, The New York Dance Festival is a place where teachers come to rejuvenate and interact with like-minded dance masters from around the world; practicing the life changing principles through movement gives the dancers an opportunity to see if happiness is a better way to learn dance; at the festival, the staff aims to partner with everyone, celebrate the greatness of effort, and challenge everyone to grow in the face of their fears; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those organization which enhance the well-being and vitality of their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to excellence 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 commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the New York Dance Festival "Coming Home" from July 20-22, 2016; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Sean McLeod, New York Dance Festival.