

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Young Audiences of Western New York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to call attention to organizations which devote their time and energies to the cultural enrichment of the Empire State; 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 Young Audiences of Western New York; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Young Audiences of Western New York will host its second annual "Young Audiences Goes To Town" gala on Wednesday, October 10, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Young Audiences of Western New York's mission is to make the arts a part of young people's lives in order to enhance their development as creative and productive human beings; it offers assembly, workshop and long term residency programs with professional artists, committed to their craft, and using it as a tool for creative learning; and

WHEREAS, Art forms include music, multi-media arts, theater, dance, and visual and literary arts; it provides services in the eight counties of Western New York, including Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, In 1962, the local affiliate of Young Audiences was founded by Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra musician Laurence Trott, along with several philanthropically and educationally minded individuals, including Aline Gunzberg and Helen Yasgur; the parent organization, Young Audiences, Inc., had also been revived by a musician and his benefactors; and

WHEREAS, Yehudi Menuhin, the violinist and conductor, had come up with the idea in 1950; with the help of supporters, by the mid-1950s, there were affiliates in New York City, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Boston; today, there are 30 Young Audiences affiliates across the country; and

WHEREAS, Young Audiences initially focused on bringing classical musicians and performances to schoolchildren in urban districts; in its first year, Young Audiences of Western New York provided 500 programs to over 75,000 children; by 1982, 20 years into its existence, Young Audiences of Western New York diversified its offerings to include all of the art forms, and offered workshops, residencies and assembly programs; and

WHEREAS, Today, Young Audiences of Western New York presents hundreds of individual programs, plus dozens of residencies, wherein teaching artists provide schoolchildren, their educators and families, with multi-disciplinary, multi-session education through the arts; these residencies create meaningful connections between artists and young people that might otherwise not be exposed to the arts specially arts integrated into school curricula; and

WHEREAS, The artists on the Young Audiences of Western New York's roster are committed to their art, and using it as a tool for learning; art forms include many genres of music, multi-media arts, theater, dance, and visual and literary arts; and

WHEREAS, Reaching over seven million school children every year, the Young Audiences network received the National Medal of Arts in 1994; in 2002, the organization was the recipient of the National Conference for Community and Justice Brother/Sisterhood Award in the Arts and the Commitment to Education Award from the Buffalo Alliance for Education; and

WHEREAS, While the mission of Young Audiences of Western New York teaches young people not only to see and appreciate art, but to also participate and understand the arts in context of the world in general,

and their lives specifically; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Young Audiences of Western New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Cynnie Gaasch, Executive Director, Young Audiences of Western New York.