

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Earl W. Brydges Artpark, located in Historic Lewiston, New York

WHEREAS, The arts, in whatever form depicted, are central to human expression; they are truly a universal language and their contribution to the development of friendship and understanding among all peoples cannot be underestimated; and

WHEREAS, The history, the heritage, and the lives of the people of all countries and all cultures are portrayed in their music and dance; the art and act of sharing them enriches us altogether; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Earl W. Brydges Artpark, to be celebrated Thursday, July 25, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Artpark is situated on 150 scenic acres overlooking the Niagara River Gorge and presents a summer-long schedule of theater, visual and performing arts programming, outdoor concerts, family activities and special events; and

WHEREAS, A National Historic Landmark site since 1998, Artpark is located on picturesque land, rich in both Native American history, and pioneer and early American history; approximately 12,000 years ago the majestic Niagara Falls began to work its way upriver from this site to its current location; and

WHEREAS, In July of 1974, Artpark's Mainstage Theater opened on land that was once the Lower Landing of the nine mile Niagara Portage; and

WHEREAS, Offering visitors an inspiring blend of nature and art, the mission of Artpark is to provide art education and programming, nurture and develop the talents of visual and performing artists, provide volunteer experiences in the arts, and present high quality theatre production and concert events that offer entertainment, as well as cultural enrichment; and

WHEREAS, Each summer, Artpark presents an exciting variety of Broadway Musicals, special events, and headliner concerts in the 2,400 seat Mainstage Theater and adjacent lawn; the outdoor amphitheater hosts festivals including the popular "Tuesday in the Park" summer concert series, Free Family Saturdays, unique camps for children, and free art activities for thousands of families each summer; and

WHEREAS, In its 11 year existence, Artpark's award-winning "Tuesday in the Park" concert series has surpassed all other Western New York region programs, summer events, festivals or music series, in the quality of performances and the annual growth in attendance; and

WHEREAS, Artpark has received numerous awards and accolades, some of which include Best Outdoor Music Venue, Best Music Series, Best Public Party Venue, Most Exciting Concert Series in Western New York, and Best Outdoor Concert Event; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Artpark received a Trailblazer Award in 2009 from The Arts Council of Buffalo & Erie County, in recognition of excellence, innovation, and achievements in the Western New York Arts and Cultural Community, in addition to demonstrating leadership and progressive thinking that has resulted in substantial organizational improvement; and

WHEREAS, Furthermore, a two-time winner of the Niagara River Region Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Award, Artpark received the 2008 Community Advocate of the Year Award by the Niagara USA Chamber of Commerce, and the 2012 Amherst Chamber of Commerce Sponsor Award for outstanding service to the Western New York region; and

WHEREAS, Artpark President, George Osborne, was named one of Business First's Most Influential People in 2012, and Business First's Power 200

Most Influential People in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Artistic and cultural activities help people to lift their minds away from their daily routines and live a fuller life through their appreciation of creativity; and the creative energy of the arts can translate into increased employment opportunities and the stimulation of community and regional businesses and economic activity; and

WHEREAS, A true asset to society, Earl W. Brydges Artpark's distinguished record merits the recognition and respectful tribute of this Legislative Body; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 40th Anniversary of Earl W. Brydges Artpark; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to George Osborne, President of Earl W. Brydges Artpark.