

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the World Awareness Children's Museum and paying tribute to 20 individuals upon the occasion of their designation for special honor

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that the quality of life of the citizens of the State of New York is greatly enriched by its exceptional cultural, educational and recreational institutions; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the World Awareness Children's Museum and pay tribute to 20 individuals upon the occasion of their designation for special honor to be feted at a celebration on Friday, May 1, 2015, at the Six Flags Great Escape Lodge, Queensbury, New York; and

WHEREAS, In 1985, the World Awareness Children's Museum (WACM) originated as the vision of Dr. Jacqueline S. Touba and twelve community leaders, who believed that sharing and exchanging the visions of children around the world would promote an appreciation of cultural diversities; and

WHEREAS, The International Arts & Culture Association (IACA) was formed in 1985, and augmented a growing collection of children's art with educational artifacts from around the world; to preserve these growing collections, IACA applied to the Board of Regents of the New York State Department of Education to become a Museum, subsequently, in 1995, the World Awareness Children's Museum was chartered; and

WHEREAS, Today, under the luminous leadership of Director Heather E. Hickland, the World Awareness Children's Museum offers various interactive and hands-on educational and art programs, as well as facilities for school groups and birthday parties; and

WHEREAS, The World Awareness Children's Museum has chosen 20 individuals, couples or families who have helped create, support, and sustain its efforts to inspire curiosity and foster understanding and appreciation of worldwide cultural diversity; and

WHEREAS, Through the planning, hard work, dreaming, and believing of these 20 dedicated advocates, including, Don and Cindy Hess, Dr. Riza Touba, Gretchen Steen, Paul Pontiff, Esq., Betty Dodds, Lisa Sheridan, the Collections team, represented by Nancy Countryman, Linda Cappabianca, Donna Emerson, Tina Lee-Carruthers, Joan and Byron Lapham, the Carruthers family, represented by George Carruthers, Debra Vales and Chris Scoville, Lynn Shanks, the Monahan family, represented by Joan Kubricky and Linda Steves, Judy Carvin, Mary MacKrell, Elizabeth Little Hogan, Mel Krug, and Maureen Robinson, children and families enjoy learning about the world through art, programming, and play in a world class children's museum; and

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body that when institutions of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be recognized and applauded 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 20th Anniversary of the World Awareness Children's Museum and paying tribute to 20 individuals upon the occasion of their designation for special honor; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Heather E. Hickland, Director, the World Awareness Children's Museum, and the aforementioned honorees.