

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING the Brooklyn Academy of Music upon the occasion of hosting the 2022 DanceAfrica Festival to be celebrated May 27-30, 2022

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to call attention to those events which serve to enhance the cultural enrichment of the State of New York and preserve the heritage of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Brooklyn Academy of Music upon the occasion of hosting the 2022 DanceAfrica Festival to be celebrated May 27-30, 2022, at the Peter Jay Sharp Building in the Howard Gilman Opera House in Brooklyn, New York; and

WHEREAS, Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) is a multi-faceted arts center committed to serving the Brooklyn community; for over 150 years, it has provided world-class programming in theater, dance, music, opera, and film, while showcasing the work of emerging artists and innovative modern masters; and

WHEREAS, The 2022 DanceAfrica Festival is organized by Afropop Worldwide, a Peabody award-winning radio program and online magazine dedicated to music from Africa and the African diaspora; and

WHEREAS, The vision of Afropop Worldwide is to increase the profile of African and African diaspora music worldwide, and to see that benefits from this increased profile go back to artists, music industry professionals, and the countries that produce the music; and

WHEREAS, Dance Africa is dedicated to African dance and music and this year it returns to the stages and streets of Brooklyn for its 45th year; and

WHEREAS, Five different guest companies from Brooklyn, Harlem, the Bronx, and Washington, DC, will perform, each offering a home-grown vision of traditional dances; they will bring to the stage movement and musical styles from Nigeria, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, and the Caribbean, supported by an all-star orchestra created by members of each company; and

WHEREAS, In addition, the DanceAfrica Spirit Walkers will take the stage and the beloved RestorationArt Dance Youth Ensemble will mark their 25th Anniversary; and

WHEREAS, The DanceAfrica Arts Festival is a cherished event which provides a uniquely warm and safe environment in which to enjoy the music, dance, arts, crafts, flavors, colors, laughter and love of the African Diaspora with family and visitors from across the globe; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Brooklyn Academy of Music upon the occasion of hosting the 2022 DanceAfrica Festival to be celebrated May 27-30, 2022; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Brooklyn Academy of Music and Afropop Worldwide.