

Assembly Resolution No. 122

BY: M. of A. Barclay

CONGRATULATING Nancy Fox upon the occasion of her retirement after 12 years of dedicated service as Executive Director and Founder of the CNY Community Arts Center

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to acknowledge the significant milestones in the distinguished careers of those outstanding community leaders, whose professional lives and civic endeavors serve to enhance the stature of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to honor Nancy Fox upon the occasion of her retirement after 12 years of distinguished service as Executive Director and Founder of the CNY Community Arts Center; and

WHEREAS, In 2011, Nancy Fox founded the CNY Community Arts Center in Fulton, New York, and since then, has rendered faithful, conscientious, and invaluable service for the greater community; and

WHEREAS, In her capacity as Executive Director, Nancy Fox served the CNY Community Arts Center with loyalty, honor, and distinction; in her first year, she mobilized and inspired a group of like-minded residents to build awareness of the economic and cultural benefits of the arts with the common goal "to build a better future through the arts"; and

WHEREAS, Through her vision and dedication, Nancy Fox attracted visual, literary, and performing artists who joined in the opportunity to offer the greater Fulton community painting, drawing and theater classes, art competitions, writing courses, performances, and more for the past 12 years; and

WHEREAS, In 2014, after much success, the CNY Community Arts Center partnered with Cayuga Community College and moved to the Fulton campus; this move enabled the center to expand their presence in the community with an upgraded stage in a newer and more modern facility; during the next 4 years, the center's theater program experienced exponential growth; and

WHEREAS, Under Nancy Fox's commendable leadership, the CNY Community Arts Center continued to grow, flourish and gain in popularity with both attendees at performances and the center attracting talented artists from around the region; and

WHEREAS, Following the success of the Center, a decision was made to purchase a vacant downtown building; and with the community's support, Fulton's first dedicated community arts center building was created; and

WHEREAS, After multiple infrastructure upgrades to bring the 1970s building to code, the CNY Community Arts Center celebrated a soft

opening, on February 15, 2019, with the premier of "Little Women," the Broadway musical, on its new stage; and

WHEREAS, Phase two renovations were completed for the new Center in June of 2019 to improve handicap access, install new energy efficient lighting in the 80-seat theater, create two art classrooms, a green room, two art galleries, an alternative black box theatre in the basement, a theater scene, costume storage area, and art supply room; and

WHEREAS, Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, live theater was put on pause and revenue streams lost, but under Nancy Fox's steadfast leadership, the Center diversified its services and persevered by offering art classes with proper social distancing, limited class sizes, daytime classes for kids who were learning remotely at home, outdoor events where possible, and a cookie shop in the Center's new teaching kitchen; and

WHEREAS, The Center also secured a grant for a movie projection system, cinema arts and a community presentation space; and

WHEREAS, With COVID-19 restrictions lifted, the Center has been able to return to full capacity and offer its slate of robust programming once again under Nancy Fox's direction; and

WHEREAS, Through her unremitting commitment, Nancy Fox and the CNY Community Arts Center have made it possible for the greater Fulton community to take part in studio fine arts, writing and culinary arts, cinema, and performing arts; together, these offerings fill critical gaps in art education and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Along the way, Nancy Fox and the CNY Community Arts Center have garnered financial and in-kind support from private donors, foundations, the Oswego County government leadership, the City of Fulton, state leaders, and state grants to support its vital mission over the years; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Fox, through her dedication to her mission, has indeed built a "better future through the arts"; and

WHEREAS, As Nancy Fox embarks upon a well-deserved retirement, she leaves behind an impact which will be felt for generations and a legacy of appreciation for culture and the arts that will continue to enrich the lives of many; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Nancy Fox upon the occasion of her retirement after 12 years of dedicated service as Executive Director and Founder of the CNY Community Arts Center and to wish her continued success in all future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Nancy Fox.