

Assembly Resolution No. 626

BY: M. of A. Peoples-Stokes

CONGRATULATING Marisa Wigglesworth upon the occasion of stepping down as CEO and President of the Buffalo Museum of Science and Tifft Nature Preserve after seven years of distinguished service to this vital organization

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize that the quality and character of life in the communities across New York State are reflective of the concerned and dedicated efforts of those individuals who would devote themselves to the welfare of the community and its citizenry; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to congratulate Marisa Wigglesworth upon the occasion of stepping down as CEO and President of the Buffalo Museum of Science and Tifft Nature Preserve after seven years of distinguished service to this vital organization; and

WHEREAS, Marisa Wigglesworth earned her bachelor's degree from Rutgers University and master's degree from New York University; and

WHEREAS, Marisa Wigglesworth began her distinguished career in administration as the Chief Philanthropy Officer for Big Brothers Big Sisters International, followed by Vice President at The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and Senior Vice President and Chief Philanthropy Officer at the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, In May of 2016, Marisa Wigglesworth became the President and CEO of the Buffalo Museum of Science and Tifft Nature Preserve, the second woman to do so in its 162-year history; after officially stepping down from this position in June of 2023, she will move to Colorado Springs, Colorado, where she will serve as the next CEO of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Museum; and

WHEREAS, In this capacity, Marisa Wigglesworth is responsible for strategic and operational leadership of the Buffalo Museum of Science and the 264-acre Tifft Nature Preserve; currently, she oversees a budget of \$5.4 million and leads a staff of 70 to welcome more than 200,000 annual visitors and program participants in service of the organization's mission of inspiring joyful exploration of science and nature; and

WHEREAS, Marisa Wigglesworth has a proven track record in the museum and attraction industry, specializing in philanthropy, strategic and project planning, and operations; and

WHEREAS, Throughout her tenure, Marisa Wigglesworth is credited with completing several major projects including the reopening of the Kellogg

Observatory, launching the renovation of the museum's north facade, and securing funding to build an accessible trail at Tifft Nature Preserve; and

WHEREAS, Marisa Wigglesworth also oversaw the development of the 2022-2026 strategic plan, led the museum through the COVID-19 pandemic, and the opening of the exhibition "Golden Mummies of Egypt," a world-class touring exhibition of Egyptological treasures; and

WHEREAS, In addition, Marisa Wigglesworth has led efforts to make the museum more inviting and inclusive, leading to the Buffalo Museum of Science to being a much stronger community partner, cultural and community anchor institution; and

WHEREAS, Under the luminous leadership of Marisa Wigglesworth, the Science Museum hosted activities surrounding a solar eclipse (maximum eclipse equating to 72% coverage), the first to cross the continental United States in nearly 100 years on August 21, 2017, and is now preparing for a full solar eclipse (100%) scheduled for April 8, 2024; and

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body that those who enhance the quality of life in their community and have shown a long and sustained commitment to the maintenance of high standards in their profession, certainly have earned the recognition and applause of all the citizens of this great Empire State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to congratulate Marisa Wigglesworth upon the occasion of stepping down as CEO and President of the Buffalo Museum of Science and Tifft Nature Preserve after seven years of distinguished service to this vital organization, and to wish her continued success in all her future endeavors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Marisa Wigglesworth.