

BY: M. of A. Rivera

COMMEMORATING the 100th Anniversary of Shea's Performing Arts Center, a historic and cherished institution in the City of Buffalo, New York, and a cornerstone of the region's cultural and artistic heritage, in 2026

WHEREAS, Shea's Buffalo Theatre was founded by Michael Shea, whose visionary dream was to create a space where entertainment and theater could be accessible to and enjoyed by the entirety of the City of Buffalo and its surrounding region, embodying a commitment to inclusivity and artistic excellence; and

WHEREAS, Shea's Buffalo Theatre, known at its opening in 1926 as "The Wonder Theatre," was a marvel of its time, celebrated for its architectural grandeur and state-of-the-art technology which captivated audiences and solidified the Theatre's status as a premier venue for cultural enrichment; and

WHEREAS, In its early years, Shea's Buffalo Theatre became a beloved destination for silent films and vaudeville acts, drawing large audiences from across Western New York State, and successfully transitioned to the advent of "talkies" in the 1930s, continuing its legacy as a popular movie house; and

WHEREAS, Despite the challenges posed by the rise of television and other entertainment media in the mid-20th century, Shea's Buffalo Theatre remained a symbol of the City's resilience and cultural vibrancy; and

WHEREAS, In 1975, Shea's Buffalo Theatre narrowly escaped demolition thanks to the passionate advocacy of The Friends of Buffalo Theatre, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and restoring this iconic landmark, which led to the Theatre's inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, Through the tireless efforts of The Friends of Buffalo Theatre and a dedicated community of volunteers, Shea's Buffalo Theatre underwent extensive renovations and reopened on February 25, 1976, as Shea's Performing Arts Center, evolving into a dynamic venue for Broadway shows, concerts, dance performances, and other live entertainment; and

WHEREAS, Over the past two decades, more than \$30 million in restoration work has been completed at Shea's Performing Arts Center, preserving its historic charm and enhancing its capacity to host world-class productions, a testament to the dedication of volunteers and supporters who have contributed to its success; and

WHEREAS, Today, Shea's Performing Arts Center stands as a vibrant cultural hub in Western New York State, attracting acclaimed Broadway

productions, touring acts, and a diverse array of performances while fostering the growth of Buffalo's arts and culture scene; and

WHEREAS, Shea's Performing Arts Center has become an integral facet of Buffalo's tourism economy, serving as an anchor institution for the City's downtown corridor and contributing to the economic growth of the region by attracting visitors, stimulating neighboring businesses, and enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors alike; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we, the elected Representatives of this Legislative Body, do hereby recognize and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Shea's Performing Arts Center, honor its extraordinary contributions to the cultural and economic vitality of Buffalo and Western New York State, and commend all those who have worked tirelessly to preserve and enhance this treasured institution for generations to come; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Shea's Performing Arts Center.