

Senate Resolution No. 1619

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMENDING the Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation upon the occasion of hosting its 3rd Annual Rhythms & Movements of African American Culture Festival, held February 20-28, 2026

WHEREAS, It is the sense of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend organizations whose work fosters cultural enrichment, community engagement, and the celebration of African and African American heritage; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its long-standing traditions, this Legislative Body is justly proud to commend the Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation upon the occasion of hosting its 3rd Annual Rhythms & Movements of African American Culture Festival, held February 20 through 28, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Founded by brothers Kofi Osei Williams and Yao Ababio, and nurtured with the support of Director of Operations Rubie Inez Williams, the Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation, meaning "Mother Earth," has cultivated a vibrant platform for African and African Diasporic arts, including African dance, drumming, theater, and music, providing educational, performance, and community opportunities for youth, adults, and families throughout Brooklyn, New York, and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Over the past two and a half decades, the Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation has successfully launched and sustained programs including the African American Dance Theater, the Children's Summer Arts Camp, the School of the Arts, and Arts Outreach, each of which fosters creative expression, cultural literacy, and pride in African heritage while developing young talent into professional artists and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, The 3rd Annual Rhythms & Movements Festival comprises nine events, twenty-five performing artists, and three venues, offering immersive experiences that celebrate African American identity, history, and activism through dance, music, theater, spoken word, and visual arts, while also engaging audiences in discussions on the transformative power of art as a catalyst for social change; and

WHEREAS, Through its comprehensive programs and artistic productions, the Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation has educated and inspired generations, connecting African and Caribbean cultural traditions to contemporary expressions in Brooklyn, a historically rich center of Black cultural achievement; and

WHEREAS, The Foundation has also cultivated pathways for its alumni to pursue professional arts careers, building bridges to institutions such as Alvin Ailey American Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, and the Harlem School of the Arts, and supporting the next generation of performers and cultural leaders; and

WHEREAS, Guided by the vision, leadership, and dedication of its founders and executive team, the Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation continues to honor African heritage, elevate African American cultural expression, and inspire community pride, unity, and activism through the arts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commend the Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation upon the occasion of hosting its 3rd Annual Rhythms & Movements of African American Culture Festival, and to recognize the Foundation's enduring commitment to cultural preservation, arts education, and community empowerment; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation in recognition of its remarkable achievements and lasting contributions to the cultural life of communities in New York State.