

Senate Resolution No. 2078

BY: Senator PARKER

COMMEMORATING the 2nd Annual Asase Yaa Dreams in Action Gala and recognizing 25 years of artistic excellence and community impact by the Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation, to be celebrated on May 12, 2026

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize and commend organizations and institutions whose enduring commitment to cultural enrichment, youth development, education, and community empowerment has contributed significantly to the vitality and diversity of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Attendant to such concern, this Legislative Body is proud to commemorate the 2nd Annual Asase Yaa Dreams in Action Gala, to be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, on the rooftop of the Brooklyn Children's Museum in Brooklyn, New York, and to recognize 25 years of artistic excellence and community impact by the Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation; and

WHEREAS, The 2026 Gala, themed "We Strive to Thrive," marks the 25th Anniversary of the Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation and serves as a celebration of African-inspired artistic excellence, cultural preservation, and transformative community engagement through the arts; and

WHEREAS, Founded with a mission to educate, uplift, and empower young people and communities through African-centered cultural arts, dance, music, and performance, the Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation has, for a quarter century, fostered creativity, discipline, cultural pride, and leadership among generations of youth throughout the City and State of New York; and

WHEREAS, Through dynamic arts education initiatives, public performances, cultural programming, and mentorship opportunities, the Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation has created meaningful spaces for artistic expression, intercultural understanding, and community connection, while preserving and promoting the rich traditions and heritage of the African diaspora; and

WHEREAS, The Dreams in Action Gala serves not only as a celebration of achievement and artistic excellence, but also as an important fundraising effort to sustain and expand youth and community arts programming, ensuring continued access to culturally grounded arts education and opportunities for future generations; and

WHEREAS, The 2026 Gala will honor distinguished individuals and organizations whose accomplishments and service embody excellence, leadership, advocacy, and commitment to community uplift, including acclaimed actress and advocate Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor, community leader Aaron Barnette, educator and cultural advocate Dr. Ayoka Wiles, and The

Brooklyn Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, The evening will further feature live performances and entertainment celebrating the vibrancy, creativity, and enduring power of the performing arts to inspire unity, resilience, and collective advancement; and

WHEREAS, The Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation's 25 years of service and cultural leadership stand as a testament to the importance of investing in the arts, empowering youth voices, and preserving the cultural traditions that enrich the social and civic fabric of New York State; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 2nd Annual Asase Yaa Dreams in Action Gala and to recognize the Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation upon the occasion of its 25th Anniversary, recognizing its extraordinary contributions to arts education, cultural preservation, and community empowerment throughout the State of New York; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to the leadership of the Asase Yaa Cultural Arts Foundation as an expression of the esteem and gratitude of this Legislative Body for its enduring service and impact.