

RESOLUTION

Resolution Relating to

Berezniak, Kranichfeld, Brennan, Mulvaney-Stanak, Hartnett, Wright, Keogh, Shannon, Blais, Paul, Decelles, Dober

Sponsor(s): Councilors Bushor,

Introduced: 09/12/11

Referred to: _____

Action: _____

Date: _____

Signed by Mayor: _____

IN APPRECIATION OF BURLINGTON CITY ARTS
ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 30th ANNIVERSARY

CITY OF BURLINGTON

In the year Two Thousand Eleven.....

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:

That WHEREAS, Burlington City Arts (BCA) was established in 1981 by then-Mayor Bernie Sanders as the volunteer "Mayor's Arts Council" with a mission of making the arts available to all regardless of "social, economic or physical constraints"; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, in partnership with the Flynn Center, BCA began the Discover Jazz Festival which has become one of Burlington and Vermont's most popular events and is among the top Jazz Festivals in the world, and continues to incubate and create major downtown events like Festival of Fools employing countless artists; and

WHEREAS, BCA became a City department in 1990 with the approval of a Charter Change by Burlington voters while at the same time fundraising and generating revenues to meet most of its costs; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, BCA received unanimous support of the city administration and the City Council to transform the Ethan Allen Firehouse into the Firehouse Center for the Visual Arts and raised over \$3M to realize this dream, creating what is now known as the BCA Center, a world-class space for contemporary art, high quality youth and adult classes, performances, film, special events and community meetings; and

WHEREAS, over the years, BCA has developed and managed programs such as the Battery Park Free Concert series, the Print and Clay studio at Memorial Auditorium, the Metropolitan Gallery in City Hall, a darkroom and painting studio at the BCA Center, Art from

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38
39 the Heart at the Children’s Hospital at Fletcher Allen, and a far-reaching art education program
40 which touches thousands of children, youth and families every year, bringing the arts to low-
41 income families in our community, never turning away a student based on financial need, and
42 creating a home for the arts in the largest city in Vermont; and

43 WHEREAS, along with its passionate and energetic staff, BCA has succeeded with the
44 guidance, wisdom and financial support of a committed volunteer board, hundreds of community
45 volunteers, the participation of local, national and international artists, and strong support from
46 Vermont’s Congressional Delegation, The Vermont Arts Council, invaluable partnerships with
47 the Burlington school system, all area colleges, and major non-profits in Burlington, this and
48 prior Councils and Mayors, and the entire community; and

49 WHEREAS, Burlington City Arts is essential to Burlington’s economic vitality, sense of
50 community, and commitment to equity,

51 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor hereby
52 commemorate the 30th anniversary of Burlington City Arts with great appreciation for BCA’s
53 indispensable contributions to the City of Burlington and its unwavering belief that "Art is the
54 heart of our community, critical to economic and cultural vitality and should be accessible to
55 all.”