

No. R-171. House concurrent resolution recognizing the South End Arts and Business Association on its 25th anniversary.

(H.C.R.132)

Offered by: Representatives Wizowaty of Burlington and Donovan of Burlington

Offered by: Senators Baruth, Fox, Lyons, Miller and Snelling

Whereas, nearly 40 years ago, *Vermont Life* reported on Burlington's first "business and art" incubator space at Ray Unsworth's Howard Space (the original Whiting Company location at the corner of Howard and Pine Streets), and

Whereas, the South End is now home to three significant creative incubator and studio spaces—the Soda Plant (former Coca Cola bottling facility), the Howard Space, and 180-208 Flynn Avenue—, and

Whereas, the South End of Burlington is also home to more than 100 artists and artisan studios, making it a regional hub of the creative economy, and

Whereas the South End currently houses the state's three largest marketing and design firms, JDK Design, KSV, and Select Design, and

Whereas, the Kilburn and Gates and Maltex buildings are viewed as complexes that house vital elements of the creative economy, and

Whereas, the South End Art Hop, Vermont's largest visual art exhibition, takes place every fall, attracts several hundred exhibiting artists and over 30,000 attendees, has been cited by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce as a "Top Ten Fall Event" for the past eight years, and stands as a cornerstone of Burlington's cultural calendar, and

Whereas, Burlington's Community and Economic Development Office suggests the South End maintains the highest density of creative activity and creative business in the state, and

Whereas, 25 years ago, then state representative Bill Mares founded the South End Arts and Business Association (SEABA), and

Whereas, the Burlington Free Press and Seven Days refer to the Pine Street corridor as the "South End Arts District," and

Whereas, SEABA recently moved its offices from Flynn Avenue to 404 Pine Street in further acknowledgement of the centrality of the Pine Street corridor in the South End Arts District, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly recognizes the South End Arts and Business Association for its significant 25-year contribution to the development of the South End Arts District and the creative economy of the city of Burlington, and

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to South End Arts and Business Association Executive Director Roy Feldman in Burlington.