

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 364

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Clemmons family of Charlotte and its *A Sense of Place* project on winning a National Creative Placemaking Fund grant

Offered by: Representatives Morris of Bennington and Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, for half a century, Dr. Jackson and Lydia Clemmons of Charlotte have been one of the few African-American farm owners in Vermont, and

Whereas, with their daughter, Lydia, serving as executive director, they are planning *A Sense of Place*, a project celebrating the family's African-American heritage and the farm's agricultural setting, and

Whereas, ArtPlace America (ArtPlace), a collaborative endeavor of foundations, federal agencies, and financial institutions utilizes a creative process known as placemaking to include arts and culture as a core element in community development, and

Whereas, ArtPlace's National Creative Placemaking Fund (Fund) awards grants that finance arts and cultural components in community development projects, with an emphasis on cultural, physical, and social identities that define a place, and

Whereas, of the nearly 1,000 applicants that the Fund's reviewers considered in 2017, the Clemmons Family Farm and its idea for *A Sense of Place* project was one of the 23 grant winners, and

Whereas, *A Sense of Place* will collaborate with local organizations including: Burlington City Arts, serving as the project's fiscal agent and financial manager; Building Heritage, preserving and upgrading the farm's historic barns; Champlain College, developing on-site African-American literature, spoken word, media, and communication programs; INSPIRIT, A Dance Company, presenting and choreographing African-American dance, theatrical, and community engagement programs at the farm, and

Whereas, *A Sense of Place* will offer "rich multicultural experiences and quality interactions among" the farm's artists and visitors, and

Whereas, the Clemmons Family Farm will become an African-American cultural center integrated into a distinctive Vermont agricultural milieu, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the Clemmons family of Charlotte and its *A Sense of Place* project on winning a National Creative Placemaking Fund grant, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Clemmons family and each of the project's collaborating organizations.