

No. R-99. House concurrent resolution celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Vermont Arts Exchange and its collaborative artistic endeavors.

(H.C.R.79)

Offered by Representatives Greer of Bennington, Corcoran of Bennington, Morrissey of Bennington, Morrow of Weston, and Nigro of Bennington

Offered by Senators Bongartz and Plunkett

Whereas, in 1993, Matthew Perry and Patricia Pedreira established the Vermont Arts Exchange (VAE) that was originally located in the old mill at the end of Sage Street in North Bennington, and in 1994, VAE was officially established as a 501c(3) nonprofit arts and community development organization, and

Whereas, VAE conducts studio-based programs in arts media such as “papermaking, printmaking, ceramics, sculpture, drawing, painting, writing, music and dance,” and it has a “focus on working in the environment, using the outdoors as ...[its]...studio,” and

Whereas, in 1997, VAE cleared a waterway, Paran Creek, and made artwork from the junk collected; in 1998, it created the Vermont Arts Housing and Preservation Partnership Project, a coordinated project with Housing Vermont that created 15 local affordable housing units for families with low and moderate income and studio space for artists; in 2003, the Preservation Trust of Vermont presented VAE with the Trust’s Biennial Preservation Award; and in 2004, the organization inaugurated the cabaret style Basement Music Series, and

Whereas, the Art Bus brings VAE’s “Mission in Motion” traveling art studio to individuals in many locations, and

Whereas, in 2010, Matthew Perry assumed the executive directorship of VAE, and in 2015, VAE moved to a more visible location at 48 Main Street, prompting the creation of a “campus model” of arts programming, and

Whereas, although primarily supporting arts programs in Bennington County, VAE’s creative presence extends across the nation and internationally, and

Whereas, on Saturday, April 5, 2025, the artistic achievements and initiatives of VAE will be recognized with events at the Bennington Museum as part of a month-long exhibit “From the Studio to the Streets: Vermont Arts Exchange, 30 Years of Community Engagement through the Arts,” a celebration of VAE’s artistic achievements and community impact, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Vermont Arts Exchange and its collaborative artistic endeavors, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to VAE and the Bennington Museum.