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## COUNTY OF ERIE

**CHRIS COLLINS**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 6, 2011

The Honorable  
Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor  
Buffalo, NY 14202

**RE: Cultural Capital Projects**

Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning authorizing the County Executive to enter into contracts with various cultural organizations to support their capital project needs. Funding for these cultural capital project grants was previously approved by your Honorable Body in Comm. 8E-1(2011).

Should your honorable body require further information, I encourage you to contact the Department of Environment and Planning. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Collins", is written over a horizontal line.

CHRIS COLLINS  
Erie County Executive

## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
From: Department of Environment and Planning  
Re: Cultural Capital Projects  
Date: August 31, 2011

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### **SUMMARY**

This resolution authorizes the County Executive to enter into contracts with thirteen cultural organizations to support their various capital project needs. Details of the project requests are included on Attachment A.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

None. Allocation of \$300,000 from 2010 fund balance was previously approved by the County Legislature in Comm. 8E-1(2011) to fund Cultural Capital Grants in 2011.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

In accordance with Comm. 8E-1(2011), approval to enter into contracts with the various agencies is required. Approval of this resolution will allow Erie County to support the capital project plans of cultural organizations that improve the County's quality of life.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

On May 12, 2011 the Erie County Legislature passed Comm. 8E-1 (2011) which authorized the designation of \$300,000 to fund cultural organization capital projects. Authorization to enter into contracts to distribute these funds is required.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

Without the requested authorization, Erie County will be unable to provide the cultural capital grants to the thirteen cultural organizations.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The County Executive will enter into contracts with the designated cultural agencies and payments will be processed in accordance with the terms of the contract.

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: Cultural Capital Projects

WHEREAS, on May 12, 2011 the Erie County Legislature passed Comm. 8E-1 (2011) which authorized the designation of \$300,000 to fund cultural organization capital projects; and

WHEREAS, authorization for the County Executive to enter into contracts with the designated cultural organizations is necessary for the disbursement of these funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive to enter into contracts with the cultural organizations listed below, for the dollar amount indicated, to fund their capital project needs; and be it further

RESOLVED, that revenue in the amount of \$300,000 shall be budgeted in the 2011 Budget, Fund 110, Fund Center 1333020, Cultural Agencies, Commitment Item 402190, Appropriated Fund Balance, and is hereby allocated as follows:

	Fund 110 Fund Center 1333020, Cultural Agencies	
<u>Commitment</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Amount</u>
518165	Studio Arena Theatre(Shea's Performing Arts Center)	\$50,000
518004	African American Cultural Center	50,000
518104	Graycliff Conservancy	40,000
518181	Western New York Book Arts Collaborative	30,000
518160	Springville Center for the Arts	25,000
518128	Lancaster Opera House	20,000
518117	Iron Island Museum	20,000
518112	Penn Dixie Paleontological Center	20,000
518116	Irish Classical Theatre Company	18,000
518156	Shakespeare in Delaware Park	10,000
518168	Theatre of Youth	6,000
518132	Locust Street Neighborhood Art Classes	6,000
518096	Explore & More Children's Museum	5,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of the Division of Budget and Management in conjunction with the Erie County Comptroller is authorized to make all the appropriate budget and accounting entries necessary to implement the above; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive, the Director of the Division of Budget and Management, the Commissioner of Environment and Planning, the County Comptroller, and the County Attorney.

## **ATTACHMENT A**

The following organizations are in line to receive capital cultural grants from Erie County once approved in the attached resolution:

### **Studio Arena Theatre - \$50,000**

Shea's Performing Arts Center is in the process of taking over the management of the former Studio Arena Theater. The space will be used as a presenting theatre. This funding will be used for maintenance and repair of the building's mechanical systems.

### **African American Cultural Center - \$50,000**

This grant will be used by the Center to purchase a new performance stage.

### **Graycliff Conservancy - \$40,000**

The funding will help the Conservancy with its ongoing restoration of the Frank Lloyd Wright designed Graycliff campus.

### **WNY Book Arts Center - \$30,000**

The organization will use the grant to purchase and install an ADA compliant lift to make its downtown Buffalo location fully handicap accessible.

### **Springville Center for the Arts - \$25,000**

This grant will help the Center in its ongoing capital campaign to secure the exterior of its building – a former church dating back to 1869.

### **Lancaster Opera House - \$20,000**

This funding will allow the organization to make upgrades and repairs including the replacement of auditorium seating and sound and lighting equipment.

### **Iron Island Museum - \$20,000**

The museum will use the grant to fund the purchase and installation of a new roof and gutters on its building dating back to 1885 on Lovejoy Street in Buffalo.

### **Penn Dixie Paleontological Center - \$20,000**

The funding will allow the organization to install additional paved trails for handicap accessibility and build a shelter overlooking the wetlands on the northern section of the site.

### **Irish Classical Theatre Company - \$18,000**

This grant will allow the Company to finish the second phase of its capital plan, specifically the replacement of existing theatrical lighting equipment with new, energy efficient instruments.

**Shakespeare in Delaware Park - \$10,000**

The organization will use the funding to rebuild its stage.

**Theatre of Youth - \$6,000**

The organization will use the funding to make improvements to its stage lighting.

**Locust Street Neighborhood Art Classes - \$6,000**

The funding will be used to make necessary repairs and upgrades to the organization's home in the Fruit Belt that dates back to the 1880s. Projects include improvements to the roof and paving of parking lot.

**Explore & More Children's Museum - \$5,000**

The museum will use the funding to help finance the purchase of new and interactive exhibits.