

LEGISLATIVE REPORT 2021

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, NY, NOVEMBER 21, 2020

Celebrating and Honoring
North Park Theatre on their 100th Year Anniversary

WHEREAS, one of Buffalo's finest movie theatres, The North Park Theatre, located on 1428 Hertel Avenue, has been a consistent and valuable part of history in our community since November 21st, 1920; and

WHEREAS, restoring the North Park Theatre took more than 15,000-man hours and tremendous community support including additional assistance from those individuals who wanted to assist in the rehabilitation of the theatre's marquee, fresco, and the seating; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, homegrown director Vincent Gallo chose to hold the world premiere of his new film, BUFFALO '66, at the North Park featuring Hollywood stars Christina Ricci and Asia Argento who were in attendance; and

WHEREAS, despite years of architectural neglect, the local community never stopped showing their love and support for the North Park Theatre; and

WHEREAS, when it became clear that a massive investment into digital projection would be necessary for the North Park to survive, building owner Tom Eoannou saw an opportunity to go above and beyond – to invest in this widely beloved neighborhood jewel on a grander scale, and to restore the North Park Theatre to its 1920s glory; and

WHEREAS, the Eoannous have established reputations as prominent advocates for local architecture, rehabilitating, and re-using older buildings for commercial and other uses; and

WHEREAS, boosted by charitable contributions, they cleaned the paintings on the ceiling, installed new seats, bought a state-of-the art digital projector to bring them into the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, some of the theatres best memories include weekends featuring children matinees, revival film festivals, and independent and mainstream cinema, memories which helped preserve North Park theatre's first-class reputation; and

WHEREAS, visitors praised the North Park's elegant neoclassical foyer and auditorium, designed by Buffalo architect Henry Spann, as well as its murals by famed 1901 Pan-American Exposition painter Raphael Beck; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the Yelp review website spotlighted North Buffalo as number ten on its list of the top 50 most improved neighborhoods around the country for economic opportunity, noting the neighborhood's new restaurants, bars, unique shops, residential development, and the diversity as factors behind the high rating; and

WHEREAS, as the North Park Theatre celebrates its 100-year anniversary today, this Honorable Body appreciates the selfless efforts of individuals and businesses in the North Buffalo community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby recognize and extend our congratulations and best wishes to the entire staff at *North Park Theatre* during this current pandemic; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body applauds the Eoannou family for their commitment and dedication to North Buffalo and the Hertel Avenue district; and

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body thanks and extends our appreciation to North Park Theatre for their contributions to our country as we congratulate you on your 100th year Anniversary!

Hon. Lisa M. Chimera
Erie County Legislator, 3rd District

Robert M. Graber
Clerk of the Erie County Legislature