

June 17, 2004

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT
COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 6

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

1. Item Page -2004 (Comm. 13E-37)

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, engineering design services are required for the Erie County Community College – South Campus Chemistry Lab Fume Hood Exhaust Modifications, and

WHEREAS, the firm of Bergmann Associates presently has a contract with the County of Erie to provide design services for various projects,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT,

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Public Works be authorized to issue a supplemental agreement to Bergmann Associates in an amount not to exceed \$20,000, including testing, reimbursables, and miscellaneous expenses relative to engineering design services required for the Erie County Community College – South Campus Chemistry Lab Fume Hood Exhaust Modifications, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the \$20,000 fee allocation be taken from Project A.00047, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that two certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Department of Public Works, Office of the Commissioner; one copy to the County Executive's Office; one copy to the Erie County Community College; one copy to Budget Management & Finance; and one copy to the Office of the Comptroller.

(5-0)

AS AMENDED

2. Item Page -2004 (Intro. 13-1)

**MARINELLI, SCHROEDER, WROBLEWSKI, KUWIK,
CUSACK, McCARVILLE & SWANICK**

WHEREAS, the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate have pending bills (A7018 and S3109) before each legislative body to establish the New York State Cultural Development Areas program, an initiative to support arts and cultural organizations and programs, and

WHEREAS, the legislation has bipartisan support, and arts and cultural organizations across the state, and in Erie County, including the Arts Council in Buffalo and Erie County, strongly support the measure, and

WHEREAS, under the legislation, cultural development areas (CDAs) across the state would be designated and established, providing real property tax exemptions for capital improvements to qualified buildings in each CDA, exemptions for arts and cultural corporations from gross receipts utility taxes, investment tax credits and employment incentive credits, wage tax credits, sales and use tax exemptions for eligible organizations, gas or electric rate reductions, and providing for state personal income tax credits for charitable donations made to qualifying capital projects in the CDAs, and

WHEREAS, the legislation also designates “cultural assets,” a mechanism to assist arts and cultural organizations located outside of CDAs, and

WHEREAS, the legislation has a strong focus not only on assisting the arts, but in fostering economic and job development in the CDAs, and

WHEREAS, the bills support arts and cultural organizations in New York State, many of which are currently suffering from a loss of federal, state, county and local government funding, as well as a downturn in private donations, and

WHEREAS, the legislation includes “clawback” provisions to terminate the above-mentioned assistance and incentives if organizations do not create new jobs or engage in substantial business development in the CDAs within five years of such designation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature expresses and reaffirms its long-standing support for arts and cultural organizations and programs, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body expresses its support for A7018 and S3109 and calls on the New York State Assembly and New York State Senate to pass said legislation, and for the Governor to promptly sign said legislation into law, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, New York State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, New York State Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, to the local delegation of the New York State Legislature, and to Celeste Lawson of the Arts Council in Buffalo and Erie County (700 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14202).

Fiscal Impact: To be determined.
(5-0)

TIMOTHY M. WROBLEWSKI
CHAIRMAN