

October 9, 2003

COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT
COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 9

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.

1. Item Page -2003 (Comm. 17E-12)

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

WHEREAS, the loss of funding from the City of Buffalo for the African-American Cultural Center, Buffalo Inner City Ballet, Langston Hughes Institute, and Ujima Company, all of which are part of the African American Cultural Arts Collective, has adversely affected the programs and services of these City of Buffalo-based not-for-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, these organizations have important cultural as well as educational roles that focus on increasing awareness and understanding regarding the African and African American heritage, and each organization places a priority on motivating, educating and training youth through arts and cultural presentations, exhibits and programs; and

WHEREAS, if supplemental County funds are not provided to each of these organizations, the viability and stability of these organizations will be placed in further jeopardy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to enter into the necessary agreements which each of these four African American Cultural Arts Collective organizations, in order to provide County funds needed by the organizations to address operational needs that have resulted from loss of funds from the City of Buffalo; and be it further

RESOLVED, that funds for these four organizations as noted below, in the amount of \$100,000 are hereby transferred from the Extraordinary County Aid to Local Governments Regionalism/Economic Development Funds (DAC 110 9043038301299) to separate sub-accounts under Contractual Services in Department 302, Public Benefit Agencies, as monitored by the Department of Environment and Planning:

African-American Cultural Center, Inc. – \$25,000

Buffalo Inner City Ballet, Inc. – \$25,000

Langston Hughes Institute, Inc. – \$25,000

Ujima Company, Inc. – \$25,000

and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the County Executive; the County Comptroller; the Director of the Division of Budget, Management and Finance; the

Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning; Agnes Bain, Executive Director, African-American Cultural Center, Inc., 350 Masten Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14209; Marvin Askew, Executive Director, Buffalo Inner City Ballet, Inc., 2495 Main Street, Suite 351, Buffalo, New York 14214; Michael Hill, Executive Director, Langston Hughes Institute, Inc., 25 High Street, Buffalo, New York 14203; and Lorna Hill, Executive Director, Ujima Company, Inc., 545 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, New York 14222.

(5-0)

2. Item Page -2003 (Intro. 17-1)

CUSACK

WHEREAS, on July 27, 1999, the New York State Legislature created the Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor Planning Commission with an act amending the NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law for the purpose of developing a management plan for Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor, and

WHEREAS, the Western Erie Canal Heritage and the developed management plan includes the five (5) counties of Erie, Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, and Wayne, and

WHEREAS, the chief elected officials of each county in the Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor appointed representatives to sit on the planning commission, and

WHEREAS, the planning commission, after significant public participation throughout the canal corridor, developed a comprehensive management plan, attached heretofore and incorporated herein by reference, that encompasses an initial seven (7) year program that will, among other things, support and strengthen economic revitalization and preservation of areas in the Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor, increase the recreational use of the Erie Canal and Tow Path Trail, and foster interpretative, historical and educational centers in the canal corridor about the history of the Erie Canal and its significance to Western New York, New York State and the United States,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT,

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature, after review and discussion of the proposed management plan in accordance with NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law, does hereby approve the Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor Management Plan, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body does hereby request that the Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor Planning Commission provide biannual updates to the Community Enrichment Committee of the Erie County Legislature on the progress of the management plan; and be it further

RESOLVED, that upon approval of this management plan by New York State, this Honorable Body does hereby request that the Erie County Legislature participate in the appointments of the representatives to the new administrative entity that will supervise the Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor Project, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor Planning Commission, NYS Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation,

Erie County Executive Giambra, and the Chief Elected Officials of Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, and Wayne Counties.

Fiscal Impact: None for the Resolution
(5-0)

**ELISE M. CUSACK
CHAIRPERSON**