

RESOLUTION NO. 344

CREATING A SPECIAL FUND FOR ARTS, CULTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN ALBANY COUNTY

Introduced: 8/8/11

By Messrs. Nichols, Clenahan, Higgins and Ms. Maffia-Tobler:

WHEREAS, Investing in arts, cultural and historic preservation enhances economic activity and development and tourism for the county, and

WHEREAS, Albany County is home to many cultural and arts programs and organizations that enhance our quality of life and increase tourism activities and revenue, and

WHEREAS, Priceless artifacts and unique historic sites and property exist throughout the County and are being threatened with decay and degradation due to the lack of investment and maintenance of such programs, and

WHEREAS, The County has established a hotel occupancy tax in the amount of 6% in which 4% is directed to cover debt services of the County civic center, and 1% is directed to the Albany County Convention and Visitors Bureau and the remaining 1% is directed to the County Convention Center Authority, and

WHEREAS, In 2010, after paying the annual debt service bill on the County civic center from the hotel occupancy tax, \$384,216 remained, and

WHEREAS, Such revenue should be captured and redirected to support other tourism programs and County-owned historic sites such as the Watervliet Shakers Site, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That any hotel occupancy tax collected for civic center debt services in excess of the amount paid is hereby directed to a special fund for the arts and historic and cultural preservation in Albany County, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That such fund will be disbursed by agreement of the County legislature and the County executive and all such grants shall be appropriated as part of an annual plan to be included in the annual budget, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all such funds shall be used exclusively for Albany-based nonprofit, not-for-profit, County-owned buildings and grounds that enhance arts, cultural affairs and/or historic preservation, all of which shall include but not be limited to museums, historic sites, filmmaking, dance, music, theater and performing arts, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That no single entity shall consume more than 25 percent of the entire fund except that County-owned projects shall be given priority over other applicants, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the appropriate County Officials.

Referred to Law and Audit and Finance Committees. 8/8/11