

WHEREAS; THE CHOCOLATE CHURCH ARTS CENTER THIS YEAR CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF PRESENTING VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS TO THE PEOPLE OF BATH AND COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT MIDCOAST MAINE, AND;

WHEREAS, The venerable old Gothic building that houses the Arts Center was saved from urban renewal destruction when artists and entrepreneurs lead by Jack Doepp, a New York theatre designer, acquired the old building. Built in 1847 and formerly known as Central Church, it soon became the Performing Arts Center of Bath (PACB). At that point with an all-volunteer staff, PACB began presenting concerts and plays for mid-coast audiences, and;

WHEREAS, The Chocolate Church is a part of Bath's Historic District, recognized on the Register of Historic Places, and a prominent feature of the City's skyline, and;

WHEREAS, The Chocolate Church Art Center adds to the sense of place that makes The City of Bath unique because residents can walk or travel a short distance to experience quality live music, theatre and variety shows, and;

WHEREAS, The Chocolate Church Arts Center entertains over 6000 patrons during its performance season September to June, and more than 1,000 attendees to its summer waterfront concerts on the waterfront, bringing significant economic impact to the City of Bath, and;

WHEREAS, The Chocolate Church Arts Center presents local and regional talent and it showcases Grammy Award winning performers in its efforts to bring quality entertainment to the community, and;

WHEREAS, The Chocolate Church Arts Center intersects with the community through diverse creative programming, by supporting several local fundraising efforts, and by offering complimentary tickets to its holiday production to those who otherwise might not be able to attend and experience live theatre, and;

WHEREAS, The Chocolate Church offers live theatre productions to entertain the community and attract seasoned local actors as well as children and students to perform onstage and experience what only live theatre can provide, and;

WHEREAS, The Chocolate Church Arts Center presents iconic special events such as "The Hot Chocolate Jubilee," a premier variety show featuring talented community members and produced and directed by volunteers, and;

WHEREAS, The Chocolate Church Arts Center is sustained by hard working and dedicated volunteers who donate countless hours of their time to implement the dual missions of fostering the arts and preserving their historic structure,

WHEREFORE, we shall congratulate the Chocolate Church Arts Center on its Fortieth Anniversary and acknowledges the sense of community that it has created and maintained here and in our surrounding communities.