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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Mayor Bob Kiss and Burlington City Council Present Resolution in Honor of BCA's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Burlington, VT: (September 13, 2011) During the Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup> Burlington City Council meeting, a special resolution was presented and passed, recognizing Burlington City Arts during its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year. The resolution was sponsored by councilors Sharon Foley Bushor, David Berezniak, Bram Kranichfeld, Vince Brennan, Emma Mulvaney-Stanak, David Hartnett, Kurt Wright, William J Keogh, Joan Shannon, Norman Blais, Karen Paul, Paul Decelles, and Vincent Dober, Sr.

Burlington City Arts Director Doreen Kraft was present during the meeting as well as several BCA staff members and community supporters.

During the public forum portion of the city council meeting, former City Councilor Clarence Davis spoke on behalf of Burlington City Arts: *"I want to congratulate BCA, executive director Doreen Kraft, her staff and the many BCA volunteers on 30 years of working to make our community just a little brighter. For the 20 years that I have lived, studied and worked in Vermont, the arts, especially music, have always been incredibly important to me. For the past 30 years BCA has created space in our community for budding artists to express themselves, as well as attracting nationally and internationally renowned artists to perform and exhibit their work in our small state."*

The City Council resolution is as follows:

*In the year Two Thousand Eleven, The City of Burlington, Resolved by the City Council of the City of Burlington, as follows:*

*That WHEREAS, Burlington City Arts (BCA) was established in 1981 by then-Mayor Bernie Sanders as the volunteer "Mayor's Arts Council" with a mission of making the arts available to all regardless of "social, economic or physical constraints"; and*

*WHEREAS, in 1984, in partnership with the Flynn Center, BCA began the Discover Jazz Festival which has become one of Burlington and Vermont's most popular events and is among the top Jazz Festivals in the world, and continues to incubate and create major downtown events like Festival of Fools employing countless artists; and*

*WHEREAS, BCA became a City department in 1990 with the approval of a Charter Change by Burlington voters while at the same time fundraising and generating revenues to meet most of its costs; and*

*WHEREAS, in 1998, BCA received unanimous support of the city administration and the City Council to transform the Ethan Allen Firehouse into the Firehouse Center for the Visual Arts and raised over \$3M to realize this dream, creating what is now known as the BCA Center, a world-class space for contemporary art, high quality youth and adult classes; performances, film, special events and community meetings; and*

*WHEREAS, over the years, BCA has developed and managed programs such as the Battery Park Free Concert series, the Print and Clay studio at Memorial Auditorium, the Metropolitan Gallery in City Hall, a darkroom and painting studio at the BCA Center, Art from the Heart at the Children's Hospital at Fletcher Allen, and a far-reaching art education program which touches thousands of children, youth and families every year, bringing the arts to low-income families in our community, never turning away a student based on financial need, and creating a home for the arts in the largest city in Vermont; and*

*WHEREAS, along with its passionate and energetic staff, BCA has succeeded with the guidance, wisdom and financial support of a committed volunteer board, hundreds of community volunteers, the participation of local, national and international artists, and strong support from Vermont's Congressional Delegation, The Vermont Arts Council, invaluable partnerships with the Burlington school system, all area colleges, and major non-profits in Burlington, this and prior Councils and Mayors, and the entire community; and*

*WHEREAS, Burlington City Arts is essential to Burlington's economic vitality, sense of community, and commitment to equity,*

*NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and Mayor hereby commemorate the 30th anniversary of Burlington City Arts with great appreciation for BCA's indispensable contributions to the City of Burlington and its unwavering belief that*

*"Art is the heart of our community, critical to economic and cultural vitality and should be accessible to all."*

The Mayor and City Council's Resolution is an important part of Burlington City Arts, celebrating 30 years of supporting the arts, 1981-2011, which is dedicated to the promotion of excellence, experimentation, and education in all forms of contemporary art. For more information about gallery exhibitions, special events, classes and workshops, please call 802.865.7166 or visit [BURLINGTONCITYARTS.ORG](http://BURLINGTONCITYARTS.ORG).

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