

No. R-183. House concurrent resolution congratulating the New England Center for Circus Arts on its 10th anniversary and its cofounders, Elsie Smith and Serenity Smith Forchion, on winning the 2016 Walter Cerf Medal for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts.

(H.C.R.145)

Offered by: Representatives Stuart of Brattleboro, Toleno of Brattleboro, Burke of Brattleboro, Belaski of Windsor, Deen of Westminster, Gannon of Wilmington, Long of Newfane, Mrowicki of Putney, Olsen of Londonderry, Sibia of Dover, Trieber of Rockingham, and Young of Glover

Whereas, in 2003, twin sisters and Cirque de Soleil alumnae, Elsie Smith and Serenity Smith Forchion, established Nimble Arts in Brattleboro, offering acrobatic performances and circus arts classes, and

Whereas, in 2006, Nimble Arts won the Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation's first business plan competition, and

Whereas, in 2007, the sisters established the New England Center for Circus Arts (NECCA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, and

Whereas, in 2008, NECCA established the Circus in the Neighborhood outreach program, and

Whereas, NECCA continued to expand its facilities, and NECCA's first Circus Spectacular premiered at Brattleboro's Latchis Theater, and

Whereas, NECCA serves over 2000 individuals in a range of programs, including recreational community classes, professional level training, and outreach programs serving at-risk and disadvantaged youth, and

Whereas, more recently, NECCA launched a capital campaign to build a new 8,600-square-foot circus arts center in Brattleboro known as a trapezium, using the Integrated Project Delivery building process, and the much-anticipated, spacious and accessible circus arts facility is scheduled to open this summer, and

Whereas, NECCA is a vital part of the Brattleboro arts community, and

Whereas, Elsie Smith and Serenity Smith Forchion were the 2016 recipients of the Vermont Art Council's Walter Cerf Medal for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly congratulates the New England Center for Circus Arts on its 10th anniversary and its cofounders, Elsie Smith and Serenity Smith Forchion, on winning the 2016 Walter Cerf Medal for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to NECCA and to Elsie Smith and Serenity Smith Forchion.