



**TO:** Cultural Education Committee  
**FROM:** Elizabeth R. Berlin *Elizabeth R. Berlin*  
**SUBJECT:** Report on New York State Summer School of the Arts  
2015 and 2016 sessions  
**DATE:** June 6, 2016

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** *Mary Ellen Elin*  
**SUMMARY**

### **Issue for Discussion**

The New York State Summer School of the Arts (NYSSSA) completed its 2015 program year and looks forward to a successful 2016 program its 47<sup>th</sup> year of operation. NYSSSA's goal is clear: to provide intensive, pre-professional training programs for New York State's most gifted and motivated young artists, those who are considering careers in the arts or entertainment industries.

The committee will receive an update on the 2015 program from NYSSSA staff and NYSSSA School of Theatre Artistic Director, Margaret Denithorne as well as a NYSSSA School of Theatre 2014 Alumnus. The committee will also view a brief video about the program produced by Mountain Lake PBS.

### **Reason(s) for Consideration**

Article 7 of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law establishes the Summer School of the Arts within the Education Department. 2016 marks the 47th year of the program.

### **Background Information**

NYSSSA operates seven month-long, residential programs for high-school students. Participation in these programs is based on a needs-blind audition or portfolio review conducted by artists. The seven schools and their host institutions are:

School of Ballet – Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs  
School of Dance – Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs  
School of Choral Studies – SUNY Fredonia, Fredonia  
School of Media Arts – SUNY Oswego, Oswego  
School of Theater – SUNY Delhi, Delhi

School of Visual Arts – SUNY Fredonia, Fredonia  
School of Orchestral Studies – Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs

Over 1200 students auditioned or submitted portfolios to participate in the seven NYSSSA schools in 2015. 406 students gained acceptance and enrolled in the program. NYSSSA continues to place a priority on making the program accessible to students who may not have the means to participate in a high-quality arts education program. Of the 406 students who attended NYSSSA in 2015, 32% of students received tuition assistance. 11% of students were from households with incomes of less than \$35,000 per year.

NYSSSA encourages members of the board to visit and witness the departmental program many students have indicated to be a life changing experience. Below, please find the complete schedule of concerts and events that the Summer School of the Arts will be hosting and confirmed dates. All performances are free and open to the public.

### **Performances in the Local Albany Area:**

School of Ballet- Final Open Demonstration at the National Museum of Dance- July 30 at 10am

School of Orchestral Studies- Final Performance at SPAC- Saturday, August 20 at 2:00 pm

School of Orchestral Studies- Concert at Skidmore College Zankel Music Center- Sunday, August 7- 2pm

School of Orchestral Studies- Concert at Skidmore College Zankel Music Center- Tuesday, August 9 at Noon

School of Dance- Lecture Demonstration- Skidmore College Dance Theatre- Saturday, August 13 at 10am

School of Dance- Faculty and Guest Artist Concert- Skidmore Dance Theatre- Saturday, August 13 at 7pm

School of Dance- Student Concert- Skidmore Dance Theatre- Friday August 19 at 7pm

### **Performances Statewide:**

School of Visual Arts Final Student Exhibition- SUNY Fredonia Rockefeller Arts Center- Saturday July 29, 1:30 – 3:00pm

School of Media Arts Final Student Exhibition- SUNY Oswego Tyler Auditorium and Gallery- Saturday July 22, 9:00- 1:00pm

School of Theater Final Scenes- SUNY Delhi- Saturday, August 8- 10am-2pm

School of Choral Studies Concert at Chautauqua Institution Auditorium- Sunday, July 24, 2:30pm

School of Choral Studies Honors/Scene Recitals SUNY Fredonia's Rosch Hall- Friday July 29 4:00pm/7:30pm

School of Choral Studies Final Student Concert, SUNY Fredonia's Rosch Hall- Saturday July 30, 1:30pm

### **Proposed Handling**

For Information.