





**TO:** Cultural Education Committee

**FROM:** Mark Schaming 

**SUBJECT:** Report on New York State Summer School of the Arts  
2017 Session

**DATE:** October 5, 2017

**AUTHORIZATION(S):** 

## SUMMARY

### Issue for Discussion

The New York State Summer School of the Arts (NYSSSA) completed its 2017 program and is looking forward to celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019. The committee will receive an update on the 2017 program from NYSSSA Executive Director, Molly Hennighausen.

### Reason(s) for Consideration

For information.

### Background Information

Founded in 1970, NYSSSA is a program of the State Education Department. The program provides talented high school students the opportunity to study with some of the world's foremost artists in the visual and performing arts in seven schools, including ballet, dance, choral studies, orchestral studies, theatre, visual arts, and media arts. Four weeks of intensive work and interaction with internationally acclaimed artists and performing arts companies, such as the New York City Ballet and the Philadelphia Orchestra, give students a unique opportunity to experience the rigors of their chosen arts field.

Nearly 900 students auditioned or submitted portfolios to participate in the seven NYSSSA schools in 2017. Three hundred forty-seven (347) students gained acceptance and enrolled in the program. Students are accepted into the schools through a competitive audition process conducted by the artistic staff. Tuition rates are maintained at a modest level and tuition assistance is available, enabling every student who qualifies the opportunity to participate in the program.