RESOLVED, that Hunter College award Anne Pasternak the degree of Doctor of Fine Arts, *honoris causa*, at the college’s annual commencement ceremony on May 29, 2013.

EXPLANATION: As president and artistic director of Creative Time, where she has served for almost 20 years, Ms. Pasternak has devoted her career to using outdoor public spaces as places to display art. She has overseen major projects by new, emerging, and established artists in iconic New York locales like Grand Central Station, Coney Island, and the Brooklyn Bridge Anchorage. She is perhaps best known for initiating the *Tribute in Light*, the twin beacons that lit up the World Trade Center six months after 9/11. In bringing art outside the museum and private collections, she has enhanced the careers of countless artists and made art an aspect of daily life for millions of city dwellers. Further, she has lectured and written extensively on art and urban planning, and is a voice for art as commentary on timely issues.
Statement on Anne Pasternak

The world of contemporary art is often seen as insular, out-of-touch, and dominated by wealthy dealers and patrons. It is not, in other words, something to which the average citizen has access. Anne Pasternak, inspired in part by her experiences as a graduate student in art history at Hunter College, has devoted her career to bringing art back to the public and the public back to art.

Ms. Pasternak serves as president and artistic director of Creative Time, a nonprofit organization dedicated to commissioning and exhibiting public art projects of all kinds. Since she joined Creative Time in 1994, Ms. Pasternak has worked with hundreds of artists across a wide range of disciplines, helping launch careers and make art a part of the daily life of millions of city residents. She has expanded the reach of Creative Time, which now has projects around the nation and globe; one of Creative Time’s most renowned projects was its production of the play Waiting for Godot in the ruins of New Orleans neighborhoods ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. Through it all, her vision has remained consistent. It is, as she has put it, “to provide the opportunity for artists to experiment [and] preserve public space for creativity” in service of a “dedication to the idea that artistic voices matter in society.”

Ms. Pasternak has helped bring to life monumental works in major locales such as Grand Central Station, Governors Island, Coney Island, and the High Line. One particular “labor of love” was the Tribute in Light, the two beams of light that first illuminated the World Trade Center site six months after 9/11 and that continue to rise into the sky each anniversary.

Ms. Pasternak’s work does not end once a project opens. She is actively involved in promoting dialogue with the public, organizing discussions and talk-backs with the artists, leading tours, and much more.

In addition, Ms. Pasternak is a widely respected lecturer, curator, writer, and scholar. She has served as a guest critic at Yale University, lectured across the U.S. and Europe, and has been called upon to lend her expertise to urban planning initiatives.

We at Hunter could not be prouder of Anne Pasternak’s growing legacy. She has found a unique way to combine her passion for art with the Hunter motto’s injunction to “care for the future.” In deeply personal ways, she has served the wider community not only by bringing beauty to everyday urban life, but by doing so in a way that provokes discussions about everything from politics and current affairs to art and science. For these reasons and more, we ask your approval in honoring her with an honorary degree.