



**Division of Minority  
and Women's  
Business Development**

New York State  
Department of Economic Development  
Division of Minority and Women's  
Business Development

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In the matter of the appeal of

**Creative Connections, LLC**

FINAL ORDER 17-01

From a denial of certification as a Women-owned Business Enterprise pursuant to Executive Law Article 15-A.

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This order arises from an administrative appeal brought on behalf of Creative Connections, LLC ("Creative Connections") pursuant to section 144.4 of title 5 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations. Appellant, Ms. Elizabeth Barrow, seeks reversal of the decision of the Division of Minority and Women's Business Development (the "Division"), dated February 03, 2016, to deny Creative Connections certification as a Women-owned Business Enterprise ("WBE").

This appeal was assigned to Administrative Law Judge Richard A. Sherman. Appellant, represented by Mr. Kevin Cox, Esq., appeared at a hearing regarding this matter on September 27, 2016. The Division was represented by Mr. Phillip Harmonick, Esq. A recording of the proceeding is contained in the appeal record.

The issues on appeal were whether the Appellant: contributed money, property, equipment, or expertise to Creative Connections in proportion to her ownership interest therein; and made decisions pertaining to the operation of Creative Connections.

On December 23, 2016, the Division received from Administrative Law Judge Sherman a Recommended Order that recommended reversal of the Division's determination to deny the application by Appellant to certify Creative Connections as a WBE.

After considering the appeal record, I accept the recommendation of the Administrative Law Judge as it pertains to the facts of this case. Incorporation by reference is hereby made with respect to the findings and conclusions of the Recommended Order.

It is hereby **ORDERED** that the decision to deny certification, dated February 03, 2016 is reversed. Accordingly, Creative Connections will be listed in the Division's directory of certified Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprises.

January 04, 2017



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Lourdes Zapata  
Executive Director  
Division of Minority and Women's  
Business Development