

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, the state of Washington recognizes the arts, defined as dance, music, theatre and visual arts, as a core academic subject and an essential element of a complete and balanced education for all students; and

WHEREAS, learning in and through the arts enables students to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, imagination and creativity, discipline, alternative ways to communicate and express feelings and ideas, and cross-cultural understanding, which supports academic success across the curriculum as well as personal growth outside the classroom; and

WHEREAS, imagination and creativity are seen as increasingly critical capacities needed for success in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, the arts can transform our schools into havens of creativity and exploration – places where students want to learn, teachers want to teach, and all members of the learning community are more engaged and motivated; and

WHEREAS, high quality school-based arts education involves a wide range of partners, including educators, parents, artists and arts organizations, community members, and local and statewide organizations; and

WHEREAS, we applaud the efforts and dedication of arts educators and advocates around the state, and call for school and community leaders to continue to broaden and strengthen their efforts to provide arts education for every student, in every school, every year;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2011 as

Arts Education Month

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 2nd day of March, 2011

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine O. Gregoire".

Governor Christine O. Gregoire

