

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

*WHEREAS*, the state of Washington recognizes the arts, defined as dance, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts, as core academic subjects, 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, perseverance, alternative ways to communicate feelings and ideas, and cross-cultural understanding and empathy, which supports academic success across the curriculum for students of all learning abilities and can help address the opportunity gap; and

*WHEREAS*, imagination and creativity are increasingly understood as critical capacities needed for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce; 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, included, 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, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2020, as

### *Arts Education Month*

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 29<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Governor Jay Inslee

