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## Washington State Arts Commission Board

### RESOLUTION

#### Arts Education Month - 2021

WHEREAS, the state of Washington recognizes the arts as an essential element of a meaningful education for all students in all counties; and that engagement with arts content requires complex thinking, inquiry into historical, political, and social contexts, and a nuanced exploration of self, culture, language, and meaning making;

WHEREAS, transformative arts learning includes rigorous academic content in addition to technical skill development, arts education opportunities enable students to express their unique stories through many mediums, languages, and perspectives, and encourages children, youth, and educators to consider multiple perspectives; and

WHEREAS, arts learning helps students achieve interdisciplinary academic success; and collaboration, creativity, cultural awareness, and critical thinking is increasingly understood as essential skills needed to succeed in the 21st century workforce; and

WHEREAS, the arts help close the opportunity gap for students in preschool through high school by supporting the development of social emotional skills alongside academic content through joyful online, remote, and in-home learning at this transformative time; and

WHEREAS, the field of arts education contributes to broader social justice efforts by uplifting historically underrepresented artists, centering cultural and artistic innovation beyond Eurocentric norms, and by teaching critical thinking and reading skills so that students might question status quo notions of culture and artistic excellence; and

WHEREAS, certified K-12 arts educators and professional teaching artists bring highly specialized technical skills and innovative teaching methods into every community, yet are often under-supported and left out of the academic core content conversation; and

WHEREAS, arts educators cultivate courageous spaces every day within schools that can serve as a refuge for students who struggle to fit into dominant school culture; and

WHEREAS, while online and virtual teaching is challenging, arts educators, who are accustomed to adaptability and ingenuity, are doing an incredible job of ensuring that families have access to physical and digital arts materials and relevant curriculum, and

WHEREAS, equitable access to culturally responsive arts education is sustained by a wide range of partners, including school leadership, educators, families, teaching artists, arts organizations, and local and statewide organizations;

NOW, THEREFORE, we join with Governor Jay Inslee to recognize the professional and innovative efforts of arts educators and advocates around the state, as we observe May 2021 as

#### Arts Education Month

in the State of Washington. We ask community leaders to continue to strengthen efforts that increase access to inclusive arts education for every student, regardless of geographic location.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board of the Washington State Arts Commission, at a regular open public meeting on this 4th day of May, 2021.