



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager

From: Ellen Miller-Wolfe, Economic Development Manager
Philly Hoshko, Special Projects Coordinator

Date: April 29, 2015

Subject: May, 2015 Arts Education Month Proclamation

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor proclaims May 2015 as Arts Education Month.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

Arts Education Month is a state-wide celebration of the creative endeavors taking place in our schools and community arts organizations. It is sponsored by ArtsED Washington. ArtsED Washington is a non-profit that works to ensure that all students in Washington State have access to a complete education that includes the arts. ArtsED Washington has invited the City of Kirkland and the Cultural Arts Commission to participate in the celebration to show how arts are making a difference in education.

The Cultural Arts Commission would like the City to proclaim the month of May as "Arts Education Month," to bring awareness to the value of arts education and show support to Kirkland's outstanding art organizations and art educators.

Kirkland is pleased to have many stellar art organizations that have youth education programs. Among many include the Kirkland Arts Center, Kirkland Performance Center, Studio East and the International Ballet Academy.

Dawn Laurant, art educator and newly elected Chair of the Cultural Arts Commission, will be present at the May 5, 2015 Council meeting to receive the proclamation.



A PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF KIRKLAND

Designating May, 2015 as "Arts Education Month" in Kirkland, Washington

WHEREAS, the arts, including dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, are defined as a core subject in Washington State's definition of basic education, and considered an essential component of the 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 increasingly understood as critical capacities needed for success in the 21st 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 and motivated; and

WHEREAS, high quality school-based arts education involves a wide range of partners, including School Boards, district administrators, educators, parents, artists and arts organizations, community members, and local businesses and organizations, whose collective endeavors toward equitable provision of arts learning for all students we celebrate and promote; and

WHEREAS, art education initiatives in Kirkland are made possible by the dedication of Kirkland-based art organizations and art educators including, among many, Kirkland Arts Center, Kirkland Performance Center, Studio East, The International Ballet Academy and Lake Washington School District.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Amy Walen, Mayor of Kirkland, do hereby proclaim the month of May, 2015 as "Arts Education Month" and call on all citizens to join us in recognizing the important role of the arts in education for all students.

Signed this 5th day of May, 2015

Amy Walen, Mayor