

# 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 21<sup>st</sup> century, as evidenced by national reports and the Washington Learns report on education reform in our state; 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 arts education focus to meet the goal of “Arts for Every Student;”

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 2009 as

### *Arts Education Month*

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

Signed this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2009

Handwritten signature of Christine O. Gregoire in blue ink.  
Governor Christine O. Gregoire

