

CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

PROCLAMATION

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 towards equitable provision of arts learning for all students we celebrate and promote; and

Whereas: The City's Arts Program funds many local arts organizations which partner with the School District to support arts education programs; and

Whereas: We applaud the efforts and dedication of arts educators and advocates in Bellevue, and we call for school and community leaders to continue to broaden and strengthen their commitment to provide arts education for "Every Student in Every School";

Now, therefore, I, Conrad Lee, Mayor of the City of Bellevue, Washington on behalf of the City Council do hereby proclaim May 2012 as:

Arts Education Month

in Bellevue, and encourage support for arts education during the month of May and call on all students, staff, families and community to join us in this special observance of arts education month.

Conrad Lee
Mayor