

# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the City of Tacoma recognizes that imagination and creativity are increasingly understood as critical capacities needed for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, the arts, including dance, music, theatre, and visual arts, are defined as a core content area in Washington State's definition of basic education, and considered an essential component of the complete education that should be provided 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**, 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 organizations, whose collective endeavors we celebrate and promote; and

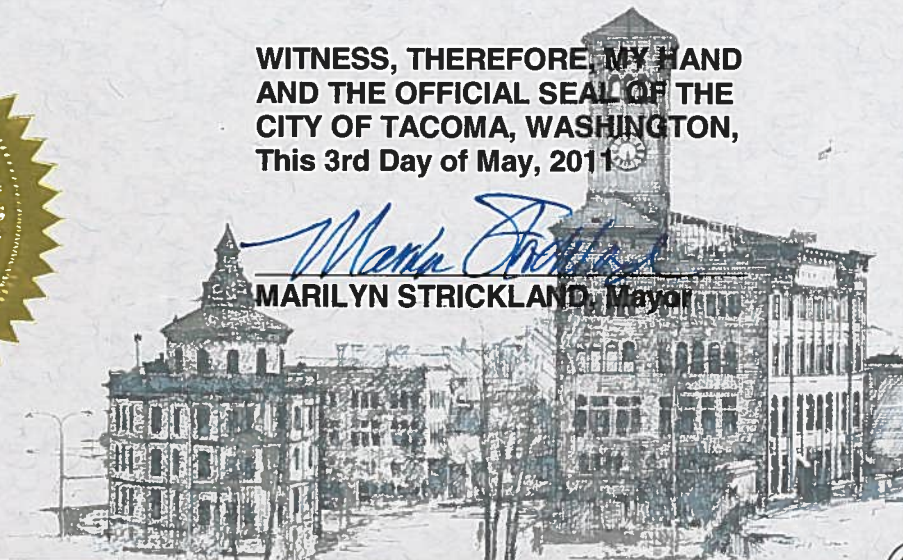
**WHEREAS**, we applaud the efforts and dedication of arts educators and advocates around the state, and we call for school and community leaders to continue to broaden and strengthen their arts education focus in order to meet the goal of "Arts for Every Student";

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARILYN STRICKLAND**, Mayor of the City of Tacoma, on behalf of the City Council, do hereby proclaim May 2011 as

## **ARTS EDUCATION MONTH**

in the City of Tacoma, and we encourage all citizens to join me in this special observance.

**WITNESS, THEREFORE, MY HAND  
AND THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE  
CITY OF TACOMA, WASHINGTON,  
This 3rd Day of May, 2011**



*Marilyn Strickland*  
**MARILYN STRICKLAND, Mayor**