

# PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Seattle is a city of innovation and is rated one of the most creative and educated cities in the nation, yet all students do not have access to quality arts education in our public schools; and

WHEREAS, the arts are defined as a core subject in Washington state's definition of basic education and considered an essential component of a complete and balanced education for all students; and

WHEREAS, the Arts Education Partnership – a multi-year effort between the City of Seattle and Seattle Public Schools – aims to put the arts back in education for all students in the school district; and

WHEREAS, with the support of The Wallace Foundation the City of Seattle is partnering with Seattle Public Schools and the community to create a comprehensive K-12 arts plan that is focused on access, quality and equity; and

WHEREAS, arts participation and training – in the classroom and out of school – develops imagination and creativity, which are increasingly understood as critical capacities needed for success in the 21st century workforce; and

WHEREAS, At-risk students who have access to the arts also tend to have better academic results, better workforce opportunities and more civic engagement, according to a recent NEA report; and

WHEREAS, we applaud the dedication of arts educators and advocates and call for school and community leaders to continue to broaden and strengthen their arts education focus;

NOW, THEREFORE I, Michael McGinn, Mayor of Seattle, celebrate the contributions of arts educators, and do hereby proclaim May 2012 to be

## ARTS EDUCATION MONTH

in Seattle and encourage all citizens to join me in this special observance.



Michael McGinn  
Mayor

