



## 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 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce; and

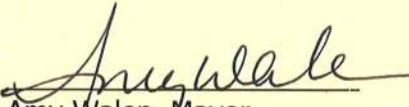
**WHEREAS**, the arts can transform our schools into havens of creativity and exploration – places where students want to learn, teachers want to teach, and all members of the learning community are more engaged and motivated; and

**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 5<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2015

  
Amy Walen, Mayor

