

# The State of Washington



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, the state of Washington recognizes that arts education, defined as dance, music, theatre and visual arts, is an essential part of a complete and balanced education for all students. Education in the arts develops imagination, empathy, critical thinking, creative problem-solving, collaborative learning, communication skills, self confidence, and cultural awareness, which in turn, helps students reach their full potential for academic achievement and personal success; and

**WHEREAS**, participation in the arts helps keep students and educators more engaged in school by promoting creative and interdisciplinary instruction, providing an outlet for self-expression, and creating opportunities for individual achievement; and

**WHEREAS**, educators, artists, and community members throughout the state are working together to support high quality arts education, supported by the efforts of statewide organizations including the Washington State Arts Commission, ArtsEd Washington (the Washington Alliance for Arts Education), and the Washington State Arts Alliance, as well as numerous local arts agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Legislature have worked to create systemic support for arts education through policies defining the arts as a core academic subject area; and

**WHEREAS**, we celebrate the efforts and dedication of arts educators around the state, and we encourage 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, Christine O. Gregoire, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim May 14-20, 2007, as

### *Arts Education Week*

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



Signed this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2007

*Christine O. Gregoire*

Governor Christine O. Gregoire