



## **A resolution in support of Arts Education Month**

May, 2009

**WHEREAS**, the arts play a unique role in the lives of individuals, families, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the arts embody much of the accumulated wisdom, intellect, and imagination of humankind; 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**, imagination and creativity are increasingly understood as critical capacities needed for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce; 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"

**WHEREAS**, PONCHO is dedicated to enriching the quality of life in this region through increasing resources and community support for the arts, and has distributed more than \$34 million to over 200 arts organizations in Washington in its 47-year history, including \$2.87 million in support of art education and outreach for youth;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved**, that we, the PONCHO Board of Trustees, as the oldest arts funder in the State of Washington, do hereby proclaim May as

### **Arts Education Month**

and call upon our community to celebrate and promote the arts in our schools and to take action to support equitable access to arts learning for all students in Washington State.

Signed, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet True", written in a cursive style.

Janet True, Board President  
On behalf of the PONCHO Board of Trustees