

PROCLAMATION

NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH - OCTOBER 2021

WHEREAS, the coronavirus has had a devastating impact on America's arts sector, with 99% of producing and presenting organizations having canceled events and artists being among the most severely affected segment of the nation's workforce; yet notwithstanding this fact, the arts have helped collectively lead us throughout the darkest times of the pandemic – lifting our spirits, unifying communities, and jump-starting the economy; and

WHEREAS, the nation's 120,000 nonprofit arts organizations, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the nation's 4,500 local art agencies, and the arts and humanities councils of the 50 states and the six U.S. jurisdictions and districts have regularly issued official proclamations on an annual basis designating October as National Arts and Humanities Month; and

WHEREAS, the arts and humanities embody much of the accumulated wisdom, intellect, and imagination of humankind; and

WHEREAS, the arts and humanities play a unique role in the lives of our families, our communities, and our country; and

WHEREAS, cities and states – through their local and state arts agencies representing thousands of cultural organizations – have celebrated the value and importance of culture in the lives of Americans and the health of thriving communities during National Arts and Humanities Month for several years; and

WHEREAS, the humanities help diverse communities across the United States explore their history and culture with support and partnership of the of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the 50 state and 6 territorial and district humanities councils, and local educational and cultural institutions; and

WHEREAS, the nation's arts and culture sector – nonprofit, commercial, education – is a \$919.7 billion industry that supports 5.2 million jobs – 4.3% of the nation's economy – and boasts a \$33 billion international trade surplus; and

WHEREAS, the nonprofit arts industry alone generates \$27.5 billion in government revenue; and

WHEREAS, every attendee to an arts event spends \$31.47 per person, per event, beyond the cost of admission on items such as meals, parking, and lodging – a vital income source for local businesses.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Vicki Scaman, President of the Village of Oak Park and the Board of Trustees, do hereby proclaim the month of October 2021 as “**NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH**”, in the Village of Oak Park and call upon our community members to celebrate and promote the arts and culture in our nation and to specifically encourage the greater participation by those said community members taking action for the arts and humanities in their towns and cities.

Vicki Scaman, Village President

ATTEST

Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk