

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the month of October is recognized as National Arts and Humanities Month by thousands of arts and cultural organizations, communities and states, as well as the White House and Congress for several years; and

WHEREAS, the arts and humanities embody much of the accumulated wisdom, intellect, and imagination of humankind and enhance and enrich the lives of every American; and

WHEREAS, arts education research findings suggest that the arts close the achievement gap, especially among disadvantaged youth; improve the academic skills essential for reading and language development; build strong mathematical skills; advance the motivation to learn; and promote positive social development; and

WHEREAS, the nonprofit arts industry nationally also strengthens our economy by generating \$134 billion in economic activity annually and by supporting the full-time equivalent of 4.85 million jobs; and

WHEREAS, in June 2003, the United States Conference of Mayors unanimously passed a policy to urge mayors and other elected officials to proclaim October as National Arts and Humanities Month; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria community has an abundance of cultural and artistic activities planned for the month of October, including special offerings such as the "Art on the Avenue" sponsored by the Potomac West Business Association in the Del Ray neighborhood; the "Arts Safari at the Torpedo Factory Art Center" sponsored by the Torpedo Factory Art Center and Alexandria Arts Safari; the Scottish Heritage Fair at Fort Ward Park; a dance concert by the Choreographers Collaborative Project; theatre productions by the Little Theatre of Alexandria and MetroStage; and the "Taste for Art" sponsored by the Friends of the Torpedo Factory; and

WHEREAS, other special festivities will highlight the history and humanities of the City by celebrating the harvest season and All Hallows Eve.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM D. EUILLE, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim the month of October as:

"NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH"

in the City of Alexandria and formally invite and call upon Alexandria citizens to celebrate and promote the arts and culture in our nation and to specifically encourage the greater participation of children in educational programs and activities in the arts and humanities and to celebrate the cultural riches our City has to offer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 14th day of October 2003.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE **MAYOR**
*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk