

PROCLAMATION

7

10-11-05

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

WHEREAS, the arts and humanities 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, 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; "Adventure" Concert by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra; "A Taste for Art" sponsored by the Friends of the Torpedo Factory; and the Family Fall Festival sponsored by the Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities; information about these and many other exceptional arts activities, performances and exhibitions can be found at www.alexandriaarts.com; and

WHEREAS, the Dr. Oswald D. Durant Memorial Center, the Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities Department's premier multi-cultural center for the performing and visual arts, is reaching its one year anniversary of providing space for the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, and programs in music, dance, theatre, and visual arts for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, many of Alexandria arts groups are celebrating their organizational anniversaries in 2005 including the Alexandria Singers' 30th, Spring water Fiber Workshop's 20th, Art on the Avenue's 10th, and the Company of Sisters' 5th; and

WHEREAS, the Alexandria Commission for the Arts has lead the planning efforts for the Festival of the Arts and encourages continued partnerships between business and the arts;

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 11th day of October 2005.

WILLIAM D. EUILLE MAYOR

*On behalf of the City Council
of Alexandria, Virginia*

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, CMC City Clerk