

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS AND SHEILA KUEHL

April 2, 2019

Proclaim April as Arts Month in Los Angeles County

The arts and all they produce are a vital part of life in Los Angeles County (County). The region is known around the world for its vaunted entertainment industry, and, more broadly, its exceptionally robust creative economy. As described by the “Otis Report on the Creative Economy,” in 2017, the creative economy directly employed about 11 percent of all workers and supported about one-fifth of all jobs in the County. In addition to 864,958 creative industry jobs, the creative economy generated \$207.8 billion in economic output in the region, along with \$59.9 billion in wages earned and \$10.2 billion in tax revenues. The arts are undoubtedly an indispensable part of the County’s economy.

The benefit of the arts, however, goes beyond its economic impact; the arts enhance quality of life and help address the County’s most pressing social challenges. For example, in the County, the arts are employed to address homelessness, barriers to civic engagement, illiteracy, and recidivism, to name a few areas. The arts provide a creative mode to delivering these services in a manner that stimulates the clients and provides an opportunity for interaction and participation.

Crucially, the arts also facilitate a humanizing cross-cultural conversation among diverse communities and their local leaders, an empowering contribution to the practice of civic engagement in the County. Fostering the synergistic relationship between the arts and civic life, the County’s civic leaders play a critical role in supporting a robust creative economy, arts education, artistic and cultural programming, and employing the

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arts to address social needs. In addition, through the Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative, the Board of Supervisors has taken steps to ensure all communities throughout the County share the many benefits of the arts. An ongoing cross-cultural dialogue, uniquely aided by artistic narratives, is a vital part of life in the County, arguably the most diverse county in the United States.

To preserve and elevate the arts and the many benefits they provide, a dialogue, through a series of events known as “Arts Month,” emerged among civic leaders and arts communities. Since 2006, Arts for LA has invested in civic engagement and arts advocacy trainings, convenings for the arts and cultural sector, research initiatives and direct education efforts with policymakers. This dialogue has become an innovative way of bolstering civic engagement around arts and culture. The County is committed to further elevating the role of the arts in public life by, once again, embracing and celebrating this valuable dialogue between arts communities and civic leaders.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Proclaim the month of April as Arts Month throughout Los Angeles County, to support and promote the arts and the artmakers, as well as to reinforce the County’s commitment to equity and inclusion in the arts, and to build upon a continuing dialogue between civic leaders and arts communities, rooted in the recognition of the important role of the arts in the County.

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(CAS/RT)