

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

March 31, 2020

Proclaim April as Arts Month in Los Angeles County

As Los Angeles County, the state, the nation, and the world collectively battle its most formidable adversary in modern times, many communities are anxious for some glimmer of hope and beauty. The arts, in its many forms, brings communities together, shares ideas, informs and educates, heals, ease feelings of anxiousness and loneliness, and can serve as an oasis for the spirit, body and mind.

These are equally distressing times for arts organizations, institutions, and makers alike, as events have been cancelled and funding sources are now nonexistent. Many artists, however, have utilized social media platforms to reach those who are homebound by posting performances of music, scenes, and plays, providing step-by-step home craft project instructions, showcasing their artwork, and offering opportunities for engagement. These arts organizations, institutions, and artists should be commended and supported for creatively bringing the arts to the homebound, first responders during their times of respite, and to the community at large.

Through the efforts of all first responders, community organizations, faith-based institutions, businesses large and small, and each individual throughout the County, the County will emerge from this crisis stronger than ever. Residents throughout the County should continue to patronize businesses which remain open or through e-commerce. In addition, residents should be directed to on-line arts and community resources for remote opportunities to engage in the arts, such as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's [@Home](#) initiative; California Science Center's "[Stuck at Home Science](#)"; Los Angeles

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County Natural History Museum's Connects' "[Opening New Doors to Natural History](#)"; as well as other opportunities that can found by following [#CreateAtHome](#).

As the arts are a critical part of the fabric of this nation, Arts Month should be proclaimed to remind everyone of its importance to the economic, social, and educational well-being of the community.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Proclaim the month of April as Arts Month throughout Los Angeles County, to support and promote arts organizations, institutions and makers through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, and to recognize the contributions of the arts to enhance quality of life for all.

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(CAS/RT)