

Item Title: Proclamation Recognizing the Month of October as Arts and Humanities Month

Specific Action Requested:

That the Board of Commissioners recognizes the month of October as Arts and Humanities Month and adopts the proclamation.

Item Summary:

National Arts and Humanities Month is a coast-to-coast collective recognition of the importance of culture in America. It is designed to encourage all Americans to explore new facets of the arts and humanities in their lives and begin a lifelong habit of active participation in the arts and humanities. Coordinated by Americans for the Arts, it has become the largest annual celebration of the arts and humanities in the nation. From arts center open houses to mayoral proclamations to banners and newspaper articles, communities across the United States join together to recognize the cultural gems surrounding them.

In recent years, the Wake County Board of Commissioners has demonstrated its commitment to the arts by approving a Public Art Resolution in late 2016, which was followed by an administrative policy adopted in 2017. The intent of that policy is to enhance the aesthetic environment, expand public experience and exposure to culture through various art forms, enhance the appearance of public facilities and improve the environment of the county on behalf of its citizens, by the incorporation of art in the design and construction of various public facilities within the county.

Wake County also recently released a Request for Qualifications for its first public art commission. This first commission will involve creating site specific exterior art works to be placed outside two new public libraries which will be under construction concurrently in Fuquay-Varina and Morrisville. A committee composed of several local art representatives will finalize selection of an artist later this month and the art works are expected to be completed in 2019 when each library opens.

The Board of Commissioners is asked to recognize October as Arts and Humanities Month in Wake County.

Attachments:

1. Proclamation