

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## *Proclamation*

**WHEREAS**, the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) has disrupted life in our community in unprecedented ways, challenging all of us to find new ways to connect; for weeks, we have stayed apart so that we can be together again, and while we're making progress, we also recognize that it may be a long time before we we're back to "normal," and

**WHEREAS**, there have been many groups and organizations impacted by the state's stay-at-home orders and which will need to continue to find unique ways of reaching our residents – Allegheny County's more than 550 arts and culture organizations are one of them; they represent a very strong economic force for the region, with admission revenue of more than \$150 million, these organizations are the fifth largest employment sector in our community, employing more than 15,000 people; and

**WHEREAS**, arts and culture provide opportunity for learning, entertainment, leisure, personal growth and more – it's part of our identity locally and is just one reason that so many people visit Allegheny County; interest and attendance at arts and culture attractions continues to grow, drawing nearly 7 million visitors a year with leisure travel accounting for an estimated \$5.2B in economic impact to Pittsburgh and Allegheny County each year; and

**WHEREAS**, the patrons of arts and culture are eager to see in-person performances again; they are a vital part of our region's vitality, health and future and this diverse group of arts and culture organizations and artists enrich our lives with music, dance, visual art, museum exhibitions, and other cultural and educational activities; and

**WHEREAS**, we are extremely fortunate to have such a vibrant arts and culture community call Allegheny County home and commend all those in that community for its unwavering commitment to our region's civic life, health and well-being during this crisis by working together to innovate and provide creative engagement and educational resources for our community, at home; they have embraced the idea of #All412gether, recognizing that the work that we are doing now, allows all of us to come together sooner – and that it is by working together that we all get through this challenging time.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that I, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, by virtue of the authority vested in me, do hereby proclaim May 11-17, 2020 as “Arts & Culture #All412gether Week” in Allegheny County and encourage our residents to continue to support these organizations and artists, and their efforts, during this pandemic.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the County of Allegheny to be affixed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

*Rich Fitzgerald*

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RICH FITZGERALD