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RESOLUTION NO. 2026-258

SPONSOR Executive Shapiro, Council as a Whole

DATE September 21, 2026 COMMITTEE Human Services

A Resolution declaring the month of October 2026 as National Arts and Humanities Month in Summit County, for the Executive, and declaring an emergency.

WHEREAS, according to the most recent Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account from the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, arts and cultural industries contributed $1.17 trillion, or 4.2% of the nation's gross domestic product, in 2023, employing nearly 5.4 million wage-and-salary workers and generating $553.9 billion in total compensation; between 2022 and 2023, the sector's inflation-adjusted value grew 6.6%, more than twice the 2.9% growth rate of the overall U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, according to the most recent data from the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, arts and cultural production contributed $26.1 billion, or 3% of Ohio's economy, in 2023 and employed more than 150,000 workers who earned $11.3 billion in wages and benefits; and

WHEREAS, according to *Ohio's Creative Economy 2024: Adding Value Through Creativity*, the creative industries in the Akron Metropolitan Statistical Area generate $2.957 billion annually and support thousands of jobs; and

WHEREAS, nonprofit arts and humanities organizations and attractions throughout Summit County include ArtsNow, Summit Artspace, the Akron Art Museum, Akron Civic Theatre, Blossom Music Center, Hale Farm & Village, the Summit County Historical Society, Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens, Cuyahoga Valley Art Center, The Nightlight Cinema, Magical Theatre Company, Peninsula Foundation and its G.A.R. Hall, and dozens more; and

WHEREAS, Ohioans participate broadly in arts and culture, with 62% of adults personally creating or performing art, a rate significantly higher than the national average of 52%, and nearly 37% attending live music, theater, or dance performances, according to the 2022 Survey of Public Participation in the Arts; and

WHEREAS, National Arts and Humanities Month is observed each October by cultural agencies, organizations, and communities nationwide as an opportunity to recognize the essential contributions of the arts and humanities to our economy, culture, civic life, and collective well-being; and

WHEREAS, National Arts and Humanities Month provides an opportunity for us to honor our local artists, designers, musicians, entertainers, historians, writers, poets, and more, and thank them for their contributions to our economy, culture, and community; and

WHEREAS, attendees at nonprofit arts and culture events spend an average of $38.46 per person, per event, beyond the cost of admission, while nonlocal attendees spend an average of $60.57, more than twice the $29.77 spent by local attendees, generating additional revenue for restaurants, retailers, transportation providers, and other local businesses; and

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WHEREAS, community members are not simply audiences for Summit County's cultural life but active participants in sustaining it, and a report generated through SMU DataArts in September 2026 found that arts and cultural heritage organizations collectively reported more than 57,600 volunteers and nearly 10,000 board members in their most recent fiscal year, representing an extraordinary investment of time, talent, and leadership; and

WHEREAS, the same report found that more than 56% of total attendance was at programs and events offered free of charge, demonstrating that Summit County's arts and cultural heritage nonprofits give back to the community by ensuring that residents and visitors can participate regardless of their ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, the future of Summit County is bright when we support the creativity, brilliance, and innovations of all residents and organizations; and

WHEREAS, this Council finds and determines, after reviewing all pertinent information, that it is necessary and in the best interest of the County of Summit to declare the month of October 2026 as National Arts and Humanities Month in Summit County;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Summit, State of Ohio, that:

SECTION 1

The month of October 2026 is hereby declared as National Arts and Humanities Month in Summit County, we call upon our residents to celebrate and promote the arts, humanities and cultural organizations in our country and to specifically encourage the greater participation by those said residents in taking action for the arts and humanities in their towns and cities.

SECTION 2

This Resolution is hereby declared an emergency in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the County of Summit, and for the further reason to immediately declare October 2026 as National Arts and Humanities Month in Summit County.

SECTION 3

Provided this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of eight members, it shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and approval by the Executive; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force at the earliest time provided by law.

SECTION 4

It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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INTRODUCED September 21, 2026

ADOPTED October 5, 2026

Signed by:
Monique Willis
5580B5F40DF545N...
CLERK OF COUNCIL

Signed by:
Erin Dickinson
1835CDA1D2945EC...
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED October 5, 2026

for
EXECUTIVE

Voice Vote – YES: 11 – 0: Darrow, Dickinson, Donofrio, Ford, Higham, Kacyon, Licate, McKenney, Schmidt, Walters, Wilhite

ENACTED EFFECTIVE October 6, 2026