

BY: Senator SERRANO

MEMORIALIZING Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim
March 2026, as Youth Art Month in the State of New
York

WHEREAS, It is the custom of this Legislative Body to recognize official months that enhance the quality of life in the State of New York and that reflect the importance of education, creativity, and civic engagement among its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Youth Art Month is an annual observance held each March to emphasize the value of visual art education for all children and to encourage support for quality school art programs throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, Youth Art Month celebrates the visual arts through student exhibitions, public artworks, art festivals, and school events which raise awareness and demonstrate the importance of art education to local and state education officials, business and community leaders, and state and federal legislators; and

WHEREAS, This year's theme, "The World Needs Art," underscores the vital role of artistic expression in fostering creativity, innovation, cultural understanding, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, The origins of Youth Art Month date back to 1961, when the Art & Creative Materials Institute created Children's Art Month to emphasize the value to children of participating in visual art education; and

WHEREAS, In 1969, the celebration expanded to include secondary school students and officially became known as Youth Art Month, further broadening its impact on young artists and educators across the nation; and

WHEREAS, In 1984, the Art & Creative Materials Institute created the nonprofit organization known as the Council for Art Education to advocate for visual art education, and this organization continues to coordinate the Youth Art Month program at the national level; and

WHEREAS, Although Youth Art Month is traditionally observed in March, celebrations of visual art education occur nearly year-round in communities across the nation, including events and fundraisers held in schools, libraries, art centers, museums, and state capitol buildings; and

WHEREAS, Youth Art Month highlights the essential role that art education plays in developing divergent and critical thinking skills, multicultural awareness, and the technical, communication, and expressive abilities necessary for students to thrive in a global society; and

WHEREAS, Art education contributes significantly to the full development of young people by enriching their lives, fostering imagination and innovation, and enhancing their ability to communicate ideas and perspectives; and

WHEREAS, Youth Art Month encourages the expansion of art programs in schools and stimulates the development of new opportunities for creative learning among students of all ages; and

WHEREAS, Through art exhibits, workshops, and other creative ventures, Youth Art Month strengthens community understanding of and interest in art and art education while encouraging the commitment of students, educators, community organizations, and individuals to the arts; and

WHEREAS, Youth Art Month also promotes increased community, business, and governmental support for art education and reflects the goals of the National Art Education Association to improve art education at all levels; and

WHEREAS, The observance of Youth Art Month provides an opportunity to celebrate the artistic achievements of students throughout New York State and to recognize the dedication of educators who inspire creativity, innovation, and cultural appreciation in their classrooms; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Kathy Hochul to proclaim March 2026, as Youth Art Month in the State of New York, in recognition of the importance of visual art education and its vital role in the development of young people and vibrant communities; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York.