



PROCLAMATION IN CELEBRATION OF THE HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, National Hispanic Heritage Month began over a half-century ago as a weeklong celebration in 1968 by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of those whose ancestors came from Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. Also, to honor the anniversaries of independence for Latin American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Mexico, Chile, and Belize, as well as honoring Mexico's Día de la Raza, and in 1988 was expanded to a monthlong celebration taking place from September 15 to October 15, and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks deeply values the contributions Hispanic and Latinx community members make to Tacoma's social, economic, physical, and cultural well-being, and

WHEREAS, various members of our own community, like the Calavera Collective, Voice Tacoma Radio Universal and Ireta P'urhépecha, uplift Tacomans as we build a stronger nation through inclusivity and unity – or as our Spanish-speaking community members would say, “unidos” – through partnerships sharing valued traditions of Hispanic culture, and

WHEREAS, the Calavera Collective serves as a bridge to foster a sense of belonging among the Hispanic community and their neighbors of all backgrounds, to support their well-being, and provide authentic cultural enrichment and education through events such as Dia de Muertos, a day of remembrance honoring loved ones who have passed on, and

WHEREAS, Voice Tacoma Radio Universal has just celebrated five years of serving and uniting the Tacoma Latinx community through Spanish-language community radio broadcasts, connecting that community to our parks through the Swan Creek Cleanup, live music at the Swan Creek Park opening, a Spanish-language video encouraging park care and more, and

WHEREAS, the Ireta P'urhépecha collective works to preserve Indigenous Mexican P'urhépecha culture, identity, ancestral knowledge and traditions, connecting those traditions and community with our parks through ceremonies and practices to honor and protect the land, especially Swan Creek Park, and

WHEREAS, Metro Parks is committed to support and strengthen our Hispanic community through our continued partnerships that further cultural understanding and deepen our appreciation for wide range of contributions our Hispanic community brings to our quality of life both in our community and across our nation, and

WHEREAS, we encourage all who reside in Tacoma to join our commitment to anti-racism and build a united community that is more just, peaceful, and celebratory of all cultures by taking part in events and activities during this month of celebration.

WHEREAS, the Board of Park Commissioners approved an Anti-Racism Resolution No. R32-20 to disrupt structural and institutional racism and convey the agency's commitment to actively and intentionally incorporate racial equity in its work,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Park Commissioners, hereby recognize and honor September 15- October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month.

The foregoing proclamation was adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners of the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma at a regularly scheduled meeting held on September 26, 2022.

ATTEST:

Board President

Board Clerk