



Spencer J. Cox

Governor

Declaration

Whereas, the Utah Division of Arts & Museums was founded in 1899 by Utah State Rep. Alice Merrill Horne;

Whereas, the Utah Division of Arts & Museums is the longest-running state arts agency in the nation;

Whereas, arts and museums inspire and connect people and communities across the great state of Utah, encouraging a vibrant and culturally engaged state;

Whereas, participation in arts, museums, and other cultural activities foster skills necessary for solving 21st-century challenges, including creative problem-solving, cultural awareness, and communication skills;

Whereas, Utah's cultural industry output contributes \$14.7 billion annually to the state's economy, and is ranked third in the nation for total art and cultural value added to state economies;

Whereas, Utah is ranked first in the nation for art creation, and third in the nation for cultural participation among adults;

Whereas, arts and culture drives commerce to local businesses, and overall, in the state of Utah, attendees spend \$39.41 per person per event, beyond the cost of admission. These dollars represent vital income for local merchants and a value-add with which few industries can compete;

Whereas, a vibrant arts and culture community keeps local residents — and their discretionary dollars — in the community;

Whereas, arts and museums enhance and enrich the lives of residents, and the state encourages all Utahns to connect and engage with the arts and museums in their communities; and,

Whereas, the Utah Division of Arts & Museums has served to support and help build the creative infrastructure that serves all the residents of Utah;

Now, therefore, I, Spencer J. Cox, governor of the state of Utah, do hereby declare
February 2024 as

Utah Division of Arts & Museums Month in Utah

Spencer J. Cox
Governor