



2011 Annual Conference Tulalip, Washington

RESOLUTION #11 - 51

"SUPPORT FOR THE RESTORATION OF ART EDUCATION"

PREAMBLE

We the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, art is essential to American Indians and Alaska Native Tribes in the formation of tribal, family and individual identity; and

WHEREAS, art education such as dance, music, visual arts, film, poetry, and theatre within education is slowly dissipating from school curriculums or gone all together in some schools nation-wide; and

WHEREAS, American Indians and Alaska Natives are in danger of losing the essence of internal and spiritual healing gained from the arts as it adheres to each individual student's uniqueness; and

WHEREAS, providing vital creativity evokes development of self worth capable of healing mind, body, and soul while maintaining and further building our cultural identity as art merges past, present and future traditions within our ancestral and unique cultures; and

WHEREAS, studies have proven that the vital connectivity of education in the arts has significant cognitive benefits and bolsters academic achievement from preschool to lifelong learning; and

WHEREAS, the arts must be recognized as a core academic subject and not be treated as extracurricular activities, but as an integral core discipline; and

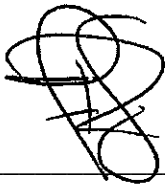
WHEREAS, to implement effective arts education would require sequential curricula restructuring, consultation of Native arts educators and utilization of cultural based educational resources; and

WHEREAS, arts education should be carried out with the same academic rigor and high expectations as instruction in other core subjects; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI urges member tribes to fully support the restoration of Art Education in all forms in public and tribal education.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2011 Annual Conference of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the Tulalip Resort Casino in Tulalip, Washington, September 19-22, 2011 with a quorum present.



Fawn Sharp, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary