

# **TOWN OF FAIRFAX PROCLAMATION**

## **In Honor of Frank Gonzales on the Occasion of his Birthday**



**WHEREAS**, Frank Gonzales is an art educator who has dedicated his life to helping people of all ages discover their creative potential, with a long history as a catalyst of arts;

**WHEREAS**, Frank Gonzales received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1960, and moved to New York to paint city forms;

**WHEREAS**, from 1974- 1977, he became Artist-in-Residence at a school in Burlington, Vermont, and subsequently founded and directed The Learning Tree, a unique alternative school in Shelburne, Vermont;

**WHEREAS**, Frank Gonzales lived for many years in Mexico, where he taught architectural design at the National University of Mexico and was an art educator for teachers through Montessori International;

**WHEREAS**, he also taught painting and sculpture, and founded a summer art camp for young people;

**WHEREAS**, Frank Gonzalez moved to Marin County in the early 1990s and lived in Fairfax and the surrounding towns;

**WHEREAS**, Frank Gonzales has directed many art projects throughout Marin County ranging from Children's Day at the 1987 Marin County Fair to teachers' workshops and school murals;

**WHEREAS**, in 1992, Frank Gonzales founded and directed the Fairfax Artist-in-Residence program, a legacy which has continued to foster artistic creativity in Fairfax for over 25 years;

**WHEREAS**, during his two-year tenure as Artist-in-Residence, Frank Gonzales orchestrated the Merwin Avenue Mural and a Youth Mural, and initiated a variety of projects, from giant puppets to clay workshops, in which adults and children could participate;

**WHEREAS**, Frank's own visual works include murals, paintings, sculpture, pottery ceramics, masks, puppets, kites, gliders, and miniature hot air balloons;

**WHEREAS**, Frank Gonzales will be celebrating his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 25<sup>th</sup>, surrounded by friends, family and fellow artists; and

**WHEREAS**, Frank Gonzalez has been a mentor, teacher, and inspiration to young people throughout his long life—from Fairfax to Vermont to Mexico—enriching their educational experience by helping them foster their creativity and unique form of self-expression;

### **Now, Therefore, BE IT HEREBY PROCLAIMED,**

In acknowledgment of his artistic contributions and inspiration to Fairfax and  
To the larger community, the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax extends its  
Gratitude, appreciation, and admiration to **Frank Gonzales**, and wishes him a very happy birthday,

**AND BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED**, that  
September 25, 2018, is **Frank Gonzales Day** in the Town of Fairfax.

Signed this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September 2018,

**AGENDA ITEM #** 1

Peter Lacques, Mayor of Fairfax