

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, storytelling is the conveying of events in words and images, often by improvisation or embellishment, and stories have been shared by cultures, predating the written word, as a means of education, entertainment, cultural and historical preservation, and to instill moral values, and the main elements of the story include a plot, characters, and narrative point of view; and

WHEREAS, the stories we relate help to define our communities and values, they remind us that no matter the shade of our complexion, religion, ethnicity, or country of origin, we all love and hate, rejoice and grieve, win and lose, and recognize good and evil, and it offers the opportunity to recognize our common humanity and foster compassion for all those that share our world; and

WHEREAS, thousands of children in the city of Tampa, Florida have enjoyed storytellers and their art of relating a story using imagery, inflection and gestures, and many have learned to tell stories themselves through the **Tampa-Hillsborough County Storytelling Festival**, a collaboration of the City of Tampa Parks and Recreation Department and the Tampa Hillsborough County Library System; and

WHEREAS, established in 1980, the mission of the Tampa-Hillsborough Storytelling Festival is to engage people of all ages in the enjoyable pursuit of literature and nurturing the preservation of the oral tradition of storytelling, and the organization has received numerous awards over the years including the National Storytelling Network's *Service Award*, the National Parks and Recreation Department's *Outstanding Innovative Program Award for the State of Florida*, the Florida Library Association's *Betty Davis Miller Youth Services Award*, and it has received national recognition as the largest and oldest storytelling festival in which children are the predominately featured storytellers; and

WHEREAS, celebrating its 35th Anniversary, the annual Tampa-Hillsborough Storytelling Festival promotes the art of storytelling, brings public awareness to its value, develops self-confidence and public speaking skills in children, and prepares recreation leaders, librarians, and teachers with training to assist youth with the skills to participate and it involves special populations in the renewal of storytelling including the elderly, handicapped, speakers of English as a second language and the African American community; and

WHEREAS, the **35th Annual Storytelling Festival** held on Saturday, April 18, 2015 at the John F. Germany Library in downtown Tampa, Florida with the 2015 theme ***Stories Are Music to the Heart*** features guest speaker Heather Forest, Storyteller and Author; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Buckhorn, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Tampa, Florida, do hereby proclaim Saturday, April 18, 2015 as

“STORYTELLING DAY”

in the City of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to join me in congratulating Tampa-Hillsborough Storytelling Festival on this milestone 35th Anniversary and in appreciation of the art of storytelling by professionals and amateurs as it enhances the lives of the listeners and participants.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 23rd day of March, 2015.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor