

# 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 acknowledge 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 is recognized as one of the largest and oldest storytelling festivals; and

**WHEREAS**, celebrating its 37<sup>th</sup> 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, 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 and handicapped, and features multilingual and American Sign Language stories; and

**WHEREAS**, the **37<sup>th</sup> Annual Storytelling Festival** held on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at the Robert W. Saunders, Sr. Public Library with the 2017 theme ***Color Your World With Stories*** features youth and professional storytellers, performers, a Character Parade, arts & crafts, a Book Fair, and guest Storyteller Christopher Agostino performing *Storyfaces*.

**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 22, 2017 as

## **“STORYTELLING DAY”**

in the city of Tampa, Florida, and encourage all citizens to join me in thanking the Tampa-Hillsborough Storytelling Festival for promoting the art of storytelling by professionals and amateurs, enhancing the lives of the listeners and participants.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017.



*Bob Buckhorn*

Mayor