

# PROCLAMATION

## BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA

**WHEREAS**, Marion County, Florida acknowledges the effectiveness of arts-for-health initiatives in improving mental health outcomes and formally recognizes the arts as a credible, evidence-based resource for supporting mental health and well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, Arts in Health Ocala Metro arts initiatives have been shown to reduce symptoms of anxiety in patients recovering from addiction by 62%, improve feelings of belonging in veterans by 56%, and reduce nervousness by 50% amongst school-aged children; and

**WHEREAS**, participation in the arts promotes mental wellness, reduces social isolation and loneliness, and provides accessible opportunities for healing, self-expression, and personal growth for over 19,000 residents throughout Marion County of all ages and backgrounds, thus served by Arts in Health Ocala Metro; and

**WHEREAS**, healthcare systems, veterans' programs, educational institutions, and community organizations across Marion County increasingly recognize and utilize arts-based approaches to enhance mental health outcomes, support recovery, and promote overall well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, National Arts in Health Day within Marion County provides an opportunity to recognize the contributions of artists, healthcare professionals, educators, researchers, and community leaders who advance the use of the arts in Marion County as a modality for mental health and healing, and to encourage broader awareness of the role of the arts in creating healthier communities;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Board of County Commissioners of Marion County, Florida, by virtue of the authority vested in us do hereby proclaim that **July 27, 2026** be known as

**“National Arts in Health Day”**

**DULY PROCLAIMED** this **21st** day of **July, 2026**.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MARION COUNTY, FLORIDA**

---

CARL ZALAK, III, CHAIRMAN

---

MATT MCCLAIN, VICE CHAIR

---

KATHY BRYANT, COMMISSIONER

**ATTEST:**

---

MICHELLE STONE, COMMISSIONER

---

GREGORY C. HARRELL, CLERK

---

CRAIG CURRY, COMMISSIONER