

2026 -- H 8479

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING APRIL 28, 2026, TO BE "ARTS DAY IN RHODE ISLAND"

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Blazejewski, Carson, Chippendale, Hull,
Kennedy, Tanzi, Ajello, Fellela, and Cortvriend

Date Introduced: April 28, 2026

Referred To: House read and passed

1 WHEREAS, Arts and culture are embedded in every community, play a unique role in
2 the lives of our families, and contribute to livability, economic vitality, and enrichment of every
3 Rhode Islander; and

4 WHEREAS, Arts and culture are a source of strength, solace, and connection; and

5 WHEREAS, The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, reports that the arts sector
6 represented 3.3 percent of Rhode Island's GDP—supporting nearly 18,000 jobs; and

7 WHEREAS, Our artists' small businesses are a substantive component of economic
8 impact; and

9 WHEREAS, Because of the arts, event attendees have a ripple effect on neighboring
10 businesses, downtowns, and tourism – spending on average \$38 in restaurants, shops, and other
11 local establishments in addition to buying an event ticket; and

12 WHEREAS, An 11-year study recently reported that during a school year, each student
13 enrolled in an arts course had an increase of a third of a day in attendance. This increase translates
14 to nine additional days of instruction – showing arts education can lead to improved academic
15 performance and school attendance; and

16 WHEREAS, The arts and culture embody much of the accumulated wisdom, intellect and
17 imagination of humankind; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby
19 proclaims April 28, 2026 to be "Arts Day in Rhode Island", and encourage all Rhode Islanders to
20 reflect on how arts and culture enrich their lives and recognize the critical role arts and culture

1 play in our communities; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
3 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Rhode Island State Council on the Arts
4 (RISCA) and the Rhode Island Coalition for the Arts.

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