

Proclamation



Bob Buckhorn, Mayor

WHEREAS, every day, over sixteen million youth in America leave school and go home to an empty house, making them vulnerable, at risk for delinquent behavior, and lacking the encouragement, social shaping and life skills that are essential to becoming healthy and productive adults; and

WHEREAS, **Prodigy** is an early prevention, intervention and diversion community program designed to improve the opportunities of at-risk children and operates in seven counties in West Central Florida and its purpose is *Transforming Young Lives*; and

WHEREAS, Prodigy utilizes visual and performing arts as a way to reach youth, seven to seventeen years of age, who live in high risk neighborhoods or who have been diverted or adjudicated from the juvenile justice system; and

WHEREAS, Prodigy teaches core self-regulation skills such as anger management, problem solving and communication, and through its programming that include behavior based curriculum, manuals, lesson plans and performance measures, youth demonstrate improvement in behavior control, affective responsiveness, and academic self-efficacy; and

WHEREAS, with a program completion rate of 85 percent and a non-relapse rate of 89 percent, Prodigy has shown positive progress in youth behavior, and is seen as a model for diversion programming by leading national practitioners and researchers; and

WHEREAS, throughout the month of February children from all over Central Florida will be participating in the **Annual Prodigy Cultural Arts Program Showcases**, giving them the opportunity to spotlight their visual and performing arts talents, including dance, music and musical instruments, production, vocal performance, painting, sculpture, photography, spoken word and creative writing, and the 2015 theme *Planting the Seeds for...* pays tribute to the positive transformation that takes place in the lives of Prodigy's at-risk youth.

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

"PRODIGY CULTURAL ARTS MONTH"

in the City of Tampa, Florida and encourage all citizens to congratulate the young people showcasing their talents, and thank the organization for all it has contributed to the community for well over a decade and wish them many more years of success.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, 24th day of November, 2014.



Bob Buckhorn

Mayor