

## **RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION**

Subject: Resolution No. 1212-11A1

### **IN COMMENDATION OF "THE WORLD AS IT COULD BE" HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PROGRAM ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2012 INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

- Commissioners Emily M. Murase, Ph.D. and Hydra B. Mendoza

**WHEREAS:** San Francisco became the birthplace of the United Nations with the signing of the UN Charter at the War Memorial Veterans Building in 1945; and, annually, December 10 marks International Human Rights Day to celebrate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the first achievement of the United Nations; and,

**WHEREAS:** The San Francisco-based Rex Foundation, founded by members of the legendary rock band The Grateful Dead, has been developing an innovative creative arts-based curriculum to advance education about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights among youth and adults called "The World As It Could Be," and has piloted this curriculum at Grateful Dead member Jerry Garcia's alma mater Balboa High School; and,

**WHEREAS:** By delivering human rights curriculum through the creative arts, the groundbreaking curriculum of "The World As It Could Be" is designed to:

- *Engage youth to inspire learning, critical thinking and positive social interaction*
- *Encourage youth who are often marginalized due to learning or physical differences to enjoy participation in school-wide events*
- *Engage the broader community to support and celebrate accomplishments of youth, and,*
- *Showcase the importance and value of creative arts to personal development and a vibrant culture*
- *Providing collaboration opportunities among non-profits, public schools and universities; and,*

**WHEREAS:** The program not only engages Balboa High School students and faculty, but also offers a 3-day Summer Institute, hosted by the University of San Francisco International and Multicultural Studies Department, annually and free of charge for Bay Area high school teachers, administrators, curriculum developers, university faculty members, graduate students and leaders of community groups in which, for example, teachers of academic subjects such as social studies, history, and language arts experience how to integrate creative arts elements — spoken word, visual arts, dance/movement, performing arts, digital arts, and music — into their teaching of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to help students combine abstract concepts with critical thinking, creative expression, and writing skills; leaders working with youth on social justice issues are provided content and curriculum about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to enhance their programs.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District commends "The World As It Could Be" program participants, supporters, and organizers, on the occasion of the 2012 International Human Rights Day, for their innovative use of the creative arts to engage youth in human rights education and advocacy.

**Resolution of Commendation**

**12/11/12**