

ASK

Artists Supporting Kim

Declaration by Musicians and Artists Endorsing Kim's Foundation Efforts to Help Developing Children Receive and Enjoy Mental Health Benefits from Music and Other Art Forms

We, whose names appear in support of this declaration, agree that one of the highest priorities of parents, families, communities, and nations, is to assure children access to that which achieves high standards of care and development from birth in order to nurture and maintain good physical and mental well-being. This includes the recognition of music and other creative art forms as equal to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) benefits. All parts of the brain should be stimulated to higher levels of development to enrich our cultures and promote the hopes of civilized peoples for peace and harmony. I, by signing, endorse this ASK declaration:

- 1. Music and other creative art forms are part of the experience of humankind since the dawn of civilization and have evolved in ways which promote universal communication and appreciation, ensure societal cohesion, and encourage individual creativity and positive mental health.**
- 2. The development of musical and artistic skills at an early age should be a priority for parents to pursue and communities to enable, beginning no later than the first year of each child's formal education, if not sooner.**
- 3. Music and arts are science-based subjects as well as emotionally and culturally important dynamics for brain development, which should be included within the STEM concept, or an "A" added for "arts" to denominate this as the STEAM approach to co-equal learning priorities.**
- 4. The potential therapeutic value of music and art forms as tools to improve mental health care are vast. We strongly urge more community, state, and federal support for research, enhanced education for music and art therapy, and expanded roles for musicians and artists to provide mentorship, instruction, and performance opportunities for youth comparable to levels of support for athletic activities; all of which are proven methods to build self-esteem and self-discipline to put our youth on better paths toward success.**

Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Your Artistic Area of Focus: _____

Optional Comment: _____

Please return to ASK, PO Box 10990, Eugene, OR 97440, or scan and send to webmaster@ptsdmusicarts.org.