

Proclamation

Know all citizens by these presents that:

WHEREAS, Shen Yun Performing Arts is returning to Virginia for its 2026 tour, which coincides with the 20th anniversary of its founding and the City of Chesapeake is honored to be among the communities that welcome this extraordinary cultural experience; and

WHEREAS Shen Yun's mission of cultural renewal revives the best of China's majestic, 5000-year-old culture before communism and offers the residents of Chesapeake unforgettable journey that shines through the ages with a universal message of goodness and hope; and

WHEREAS, Shen Yun combines the profound inner wisdom and elegance of classical Chinese dance with the beauty of authentic costumes and groundbreaking music, providing Chesapeake audiences with a breathtaking artistic seamlessly combining the best of East and West; and

WHEREAS, the unique classical, ethnic, and folk dances of Shen Yun Performing Arts transcend the modern stage and bring the glory of ancient myths, legends, and Chinese heroes to life, enriching and inspiring the citizens of Chesapeake through both entertainment and cultural education; and

WHEREAS, there has been an overwhelming and positive response to Shen Yun Performing Arts around the world in its presentation of traditional Chinese culture as it was meant to be: a study in grace, fluidity, inner strength, and virtue resonates deeply within the diverse and culturally appreciative community of Chesapeake; and

WHEREAS, Shen Yun artists have demonstrated courage, strength, and steadfastness in the face of harassment, vandalism, and threats of violence that have attempted to intimidate them and prevent them from performing. We stand in support of artistic expression, cultural preservation, and the freedom to share stories that uplift and inspire.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Dr. Richard W. West, Mayor of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, do hereby recognize and celebrate Shen Yun Performing Arts on the occasion of its 20th Anniversary Tour, and commend its unwavering commitment to cultural renewal, artistic excellence, and the universal message of hope, virtue, and resilience that continues to inspire audiences around the world.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the SEAL of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, to be affixed hereto this twenty-second day of April, in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty-six.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Richard W. West", written over a horizontal line.

DR. RICHARD W. WEST, MAYOR