

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR / CITY OF DALLAS



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS**, The Dallas Museum of Art is presenting the first-ever museum retrospective on the Dallas artist and sculptor Octavio Medellín (1907–1999), entitled *Octavio Medellín: Spirit and Form*, from February 6, 2022 to January 15, 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, Octavio Medellín was born in Matehuala, Mexico, near San Luis Potosí, and came to Texas in 1920, where he developed a unique artistic perspective that represented a personal exploration of imagery, themes, and influences drawn from Mexico, the United States, and Texas, but which he believed led to the creation of art that is “universal and belongs to all people”; and

**WHEREAS**, Over a long and prolific career, Octavio Medellín produced powerful works in a wide range of disciplines, including drawings, paintings, and prints, but most notably sculptures in wood, stone clay, metal, and glass; and

**WHEREAS**, Octavio Medellín was a beloved instructor at North Texas State Teachers College (now University of North Texas) and then the Museum School of the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts (now Dallas Museum of Art) for 21 years and became an important teacher and mentor to a generation of Dallas and North Texas artists and creatives; and

**WHEREAS**, Octavio Medellín was truly a Dallas-based working artist who collaborated with architects and community members to infuse landmark buildings across Dallas with compelling works of art, including notable works at St. Bernard of Clairvaux Catholic Church, Temple Emanu-El, and St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church in Grand Prairie; and

**WHEREAS**, Octavio Medellín’s large-scale fused glass windows commissioned for the Trinity Lutheran Church constructed in 1960 can now be seen at the City of Dallas’s Moody Performance Hall and Love Field Airport thanks to collaborative efforts of grassroots community leaders and the Office of Cultural Affairs to salvage them when the church building and site were sold; and

**WHEREAS**, Octavio Medellín resigned from the Museum School in 1966 and subsequently opened the Medellin School of Sculpture at the Creative Arts Center of Dallas, a treasured institution that continues to utilize talented teaching artists to train and inspire generations of Dallas creatives; and

**WHEREAS**, Octavio Medellín, whose descendants continue to reside in Dallas, is an artist who is finally receiving the acclaim he deserves and is duly being recognized across our City as part of this major DMA retrospective.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, ERIC JOHNSON, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DALLAS**, do hereby proclaim January 26, 2022 as

## Octavio Medellín Day

in Dallas, Texas.

Mayor, The City of Dallas

