



PROCLAMATION

- WHEREAS,** I'LL MAKE ME A WORLD IN IOWA (IMMAWII) IS A DIVERSE COLLECTION OF IOWANS, WHICH HIGHLIGHTS AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTS, CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH EDUCATION, AWARENESS, AND PRESERVATION DURING AN ANNUAL ENRICHMENT CELEBRATION AND WITH CONTINUAL OUTREACH; AND
- WHEREAS,** IMMAWII IS IOWA'S AFRICAN AMERICAN FESTIVAL, A TWO-DAY CELEBRATION HELD THE LAST WEEKEND OF EACH JANUARY IN DES MOINES. IMMAWII PROVIDES TWO KEY AREAS OF PROGRAMMING: EDUCATION DAY, WHICH BRINGS TOGETHER MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM ACROSS THE STATE TO LEARN ABOUT AND EXPERIENCE THE AFRICAN AMERICAN LEGACY THROUGH PARTICIPATING IN THE IMMAWII BLACK HISTORY GAME SHOW, ENRICHING WORKSHOPS, AND A COLLEGE FAIR; AND CELEBRATION DAY, IOWA'S LARGEST SHOWCASE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE.
- WHEREAS,** TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ENJOY THE FESTIVAL'S NATIONAL HEADLINERS, LOCAL AND REGIONAL PERFORMERS, A CAR SHOW, ART AND HISTORY VENDORS, ETC. THE SUM IS GREATER THAN ITS PARTS AS IMMAWII PROVIDES LASTING CULTURAL, ECONOMIC, AND QUALITY OF LIFE IMPACT TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE STATE AND BEYOND.
- WHEREAS,** NOW IN IT'S 11TH YEAR, IMMAWII IS A DIVERSITY CORNERSTONE IN OUR STATE, BEING THE HOME OF IOWA'S NEWEST STATE SONG BEARING THE NAME OF THE FESTIVAL; THE FIRST MAJOR FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR, AND THE KICKOFF TO BLACK HISTORY MONTH IN THIS STATE. IMMAWII CONTINUES TO EDUCATE AND ENRICH THE LIVES OF IOWANS BY CHAMPIONING THE FACT THAT AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY IS EVERY AMERICAN'S HISTORY.
- WHEREAS,** IMMAWII COULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITH THE PASSIONATE COMMITMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BETTY C. ANDREWS; THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS LED BY PRESIDENT JACQUIE EASLEY; THE ADVISORY BOARD LED BY DR. MARY SCONIERS-CHAPMAN AND HONORARILY, IOWA'S FIRST LADY MARI CULVER, AND THE DEDICATED SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS, PATRONS CORPORATE SPONSORS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND THOUSANDS OF ATTENDEES.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM SATURDAY, JANUARY 31, 2009, AS:

"I'LL MAKE ME A WORLD IN IOWA DAY"

IN DES MOINES AND ENCOURAGE ALL RESIDENTS TO JOIN IN THIS OBSERVANCE.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND AND CAUSED THE SEAL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA TO BE AFFIXED THIS TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF JANUARY, TWO THOUSAND NINE.

T. M. FRANKLIN COWNIE, MAYOR
CITY OF DES MOINES

