WHEREAS public support for the arts at all levels in the United States has been critical in enhancing an American civilization—united through the arts and strengthened by diverse cultural expression—to the point that we, as a nation, are now engaged in unprecedented and growing numbers as creators, performers, and audience members;

WHEREAS 35 years of public support for the arts at the federal level and through 50 states, six special jurisdictions and in thousands of large and small cities and counties throughout the nation, has been an economic generator stimulating a healthy, vibrant, and growing nonprofit arts economy employing 1.3 million people in full-time jobs, returning $3.4 billion in federal income taxes, $1.2 billion in state and $790 million in local government revenue, and has an overall economic impact of $37 billion;

WHEREAS public support for the arts has helped to acknowledge, recognize and inspire a growing number of Americans who participate in a booming cultural industry, who give voice to our culture, and who generously offer the fruits of their talents to young and old alike;

WHEREAS the institutions which foster and make accessible the work of artists enhance the ability of our citizens to participate in a more civil society, uniting us in understanding and appreciating our diverse cultural heritage, and empowering us to imagine and create a shared vision for the future;

THEREFORE be it resolved by the signatories of these Atlanta Arts Accords and by all who witness these proceedings that:

We extend great appreciation to the millions of individuals who contribute to the arts directly through their donations, public service and leadership as members of boards of directors and trustees in every community; and who contribute to the arts indirectly through their tax dollars;

We acknowledge with sincere gratitude the leadership and investment on the part of businesses and foundations who provide the arts with human, financial, and material resources; and

We commit ourselves and encourage all elected and appointed officials at the federal, state and local level—mayors, county commissioners; city and county managers; governors; legislators at the federal, state and local levels; and the President of the United States—to strengthen leadership and increase support for a sustainable, cultural economy which unselfishly provides a measure of public service defining our ultimate legacy as a nation.