



in Recognition of
TWO-SPIRIT CELEBRATION AND APPRECIATION DAY
March 20, 2026

WHEREAS, originating from Indigenous communities of Turtle Island, the concept of “Two-Spirit” denotes a unique cultural identity that includes various sexual and gender expressions, intersecting with Indigenous LGBTQIA+ identities and people who hold diverse culturally significant roles in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, the term Two-Spirit was first articulated at the Third Annual Intertribal Native American/First Nations Gay and Lesbian Conference in Winnipeg in 1990 as an umbrella term and organizing tool to center the diversity of gender identities and sexual expressions within Indigenous communities that have rich histories predating European colonization; and

WHEREAS, Two-Spirit Day of Appreciation and Celebration is already recognized in Humboldt County as of 2024 proclamations by Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, the City of Arcata and the City of Eureka, as well as for years in communities across Canada, including the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia, and the City of Saskatoon, and by many Indigenous, Two-Spirit and non-Indigenous community-based organizations across Canada occurring annually on the Spring Equinox, symbolizing harmonious balance between length of day and night, and moving from a time of dormancy to a season of newness, growth, and light; and

WHEREAS, as a result of community activism, determined advocacy, resilience, and talent, Two-Spirit people continue to reclaim and tear down systemic barriers set up to exclude them and serve as community, cultural and educational leaders; and

WHEREAS, there are nine federally recognized Tribal nations - along with a large community of Indigenous people from around the nation and around the world - within Humboldt County, including those who recognize Two-Spirit people within their cultures and languages, such as the Wiyot Tribe’s term in Soulatluk of “gou’mel” which means “both together”; and

WHEREAS, the City of Arcata celebrates the beauty and resilience of Two-Spirit people today and throughout history, recognizing that Two-Spirit people have a rich tradition of contributing in myriad ways to the betterment of our society, often working at the forefront of social justice activism and human rights; and

WHEREAS, in Arcata, we believe in and reaffirm the inherent value of our community, including our Two-Spirit communities, individuals and families, without exception.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the City Council of the City of Arcata hereby declares **Friday, March 20, 2026**, as **TWO-SPIRIT CELEBRATION AND APPRECIATION DAY**, and encourages all residents to learn about Two-Spirit traditions and communities today, summon the courage to stand up and speak out to interrupt racism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia when it occurs, and listen with patience and empathy to create an environment for learning and understanding each other regardless of what we look like, where we come from, or who we love.

Dated: March 18, 2026

Kimberley White
Mayor