

# Office of the Mayor

CITY OF NEW YORK



# Proclamation

**WHEREAS:**

OUR GLOBAL CITY RISES ON THE FOUNDATION OF GENERATIONS OF IMMIGRANTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD WHO HAVE CROSSED OCEANS SEEKING NEW FREEDOMS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FIVE BOROUGHES. MILLIONS OF ITALIAN NEW YORKERS HAVE SHAPED AND STRENGTHENED EVERY SECTOR IN THE FIVE BOROUGHES, FROM HOSPITALS, POLICE PRECINCTS, FIREHOUSES, AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS, LAW FIRMS, UNIVERSITIES, TECHNOLOGY ENTERPRISES, AND MORE. AS THE ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE COMMITTEE OF NEW YORK CELEBRATES THE 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE MONTH, I AM PLEASED TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANT ROLE ITALIAN AMERICANS HAVE PLAYED IN OUR CITY'S GREAT HISTORY, AS WELL AS THE ENDURING BONDS BETWEEN NEW YORK AND ITALY.

**WHEREAS:**

GUIDED BY THE THEME, "DANTE 700! CELEBRATING THE GENIUS OF DANTE; THE GREAT POET WHO UNIFIED ITALY THROUGH LANGUAGE," THE COMMITTEE'S 2021 ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE MONTH WILL FEATURE A SERIES OF PROGRAMS SHOWCASING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE INFLUENTIAL MEDIEVAL POET AND PHILOSOPHER DANTE ALIGHIERI, IN HONOR OF THE 700<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF HIS DEATH. CONSIDERED THE FATHER OF THE ITALIAN LANGUAGE, DANTE WROTE IN HIS NATIVE FLORENTINE DIALECT INSTEAD OF THE CUSTOMARY BUT LESS POPULARLY ACCESSIBLE LATIN, LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR UNITING ITALIANS THROUGH A SHARED VERNACULAR. TODAY, HIS EPIC MASTERPIECE THE DIVINE COMEDY AND OTHER ACCLAIMED LITERARY WORKS CONTINUE TO ENGAGE AND INSPIRE PEOPLE OF ALL BACKGROUNDS AROUND THE WORLD.

**WHEREAS:**

ESTABLISHED IN 1976, IHCC-NY EXCELS AT PRESERVING THE VIBRANT TRADITIONS OF ITALY AND ITALIAN AMERICANS AND SHARING THEM WITH ALL NEW YORKERS THROUGH ITS YEAR-ROUND CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS. AS A PROUD ITALIAN AMERICAN, I AM DELIGHTED TO APPLAUD THE COMMITTEE'S DEDICATED MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS AND EVERYONE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS YEAR'S ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE MONTH FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO UNITE OUR VITAL ITALIAN COMMUNITY IN FELLOWSHIP AND ENRICH OUR DIVERSE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE.  
*GRAZIE MILLE!*

NOW THEREFORE, I, BILL DE BLASIO, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM OCTOBER 2021 IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK AS:

"ITALIAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE MONTH"



Handwritten signature of Bill De Blasio in black ink.

BILL DE BLASIO  
MAYOR