



**Proclamation No. 23-0094**  
**Celebrating the life of Dr. Martha Urioste, Chicana education trail blazer**

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Martha Urioste was born October 2, 1937 in Raton, New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Martha Urioste graduated from Loretto Heights College in 1958, earned her Ph.D. from the University of Colorado in 1977 and an Honorary Ph.D. from Regis University in 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Martha Urioste was inducted into the Colorado Hall of Fame in 2000, the Colorado Latino Hall of Fame in 2018, and the Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Martha Urioste was a First Gen graduate, a Chicana advocate and leader, a Global Montessori and Early Childhood Education advocate, expert, author and change maker; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Martha Urioste was a board member of Family Star Montessori Early Learning, and was instrumental in establishing the first Montessori Public Schools in the City of Denver, making Denison Montessori Elementary School a national model, feeding into Sandoval Elementary School; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Martha Urioste is known in her community as La Madrina de Montessori or just simply “Martita,” and was instrumental in elevating graduation rates among Chicano/a students and other students of color. Dr. Urioste was a relentless advocate for multilingual education, students, and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Martha Urioste served as a member of the Congress of Hispanic Educators, they oversaw compliance with the consent decree for mono-lingual students in Denver Public Schools (DPS). As a champion for multilingual education, she insisted that leadership in DPS be held accountable to fully implement the Consent Decree to provide multilingual learners equal opportunities to succeed linguistically and academically; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Martha Urioste was trailblazer who created multiple pathways for students to achieve linguistic and academic success.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

**Section 1.** That the Council of the City and County of Denver hereby recognizes the service to the citizens of Denver and honors Dr. Martha Urioste for her leadership, dedication, and phenomenal contributions to our community.

**Section 2.** That the Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall affix the seal of the City and County of Denver to this proclamation and that a copy be transmitted to Richard Urioste.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL January 30, 2023

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PRESIDENT