

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; born in Oshkosh on December 21, 1872, Helen Farnsworth Mears became one of the most prominent women sculptors in Wisconsin's history and helped pave the way for women in art everywhere; and

WHEREAS; Helen Farnsworth Mears created art that exemplified the Wisconsin spirit, and one of her most notable works, the "Genius of Wisconsin," commissioned for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, is still exhibited in the State Capitol Building's Southeast Wing today; and

WHEREAS; Helen Farnsworth Mears was also commissioned by the state of Illinois to create a statue of Frances E. Willard, a notable suffragist and temperance reformer, which became the first sculpture of a woman to be included in the National Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol; and

WHEREAS; while her life was short, Helen Farnsworth Mears' legacy lives on in her many works in marble and bronze that are exhibited in museums and buildings around the country and that continue to inspire Wisconsinites; and

WHEREAS; in recognition of her work and influence, the General Federation of Women's Clubs-Wisconsin (GFWC-WI) established an annual art competition in her name in 1927 for 7th and 8th grade students that continues to this day; and


WHEREAS; on what would be her 150th birthday, the state of Wisconsin joins the GFWC-WI in honoring the legacy of Helen Farnsworth Mears—both as an artist and as an influential woman in Wisconsin history—and recognizes the importance of her art to the collective culture of the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim December 21, 2022, as

HELEN FARNSWORTH MEARS DAY

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance
to all our state's residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have
hereunto set my hand and caused the
Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin
to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in
the City of Madison this 18th day of
November 2022.


TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:


DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State

