

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, in 1981, the nonprofit seed conservation organization, Native Seeds/SEARCH, hosted the first national grassroots seed conference, Seed Banks Serving People, in Tucson, Arizona, to better meet the community's need for access to quality seeds; and

**WHEREAS**, 35 years later, Tucson is proud to host the first International Seed Library Forum on May 3-6, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the unifying theme shared by both of these meetings has been to envision, plan and implement effective strategies for promoting more just access to heirloom, farmer-bred and place-based seeds, as well as traditional agricultural and culinary knowledge for our Southern Arizona community members; and

**WHEREAS**, the International Seed Library Forum, co-hosted by Gary Nabhan and The University of Arizona W.K. Kellogg Program in Food and Water Security for the Borderlands, the Pima County Public Library, Native Seeds/SEARCH, Edible Baja Arizona, the Southwest Folklife Alliance, Friends of Tucson's Birthplace, and the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona, highlights Pima County's prominent role on an international scale to promote food security, sustainability, and climate adaptability; and

**WHEREAS**, this International Seed Library Forum is bringing together partners from around the world, intent on improving and securing access to seeds, herbs and fruit tree cuttings to meet the nutritional, culinary, and cultural needs in their communities, promote seed adaptation and develop protocols for good seed-lending practices; and

**WHEREAS**, the International Seed Library Forum is occurring at a critical moment in the history of the seed library movement, of which the Pima County Public Library is a catalyst, and currently the largest seed library network nationally, representing 12 percent of the nation's borrowed seed; and

**WHEREAS**, the International Seed Library Forum will engage agriculture and food policy lawyers and administrators in discussion about regulatory protocols, and

**WHEREAS**, this Forum welcomes civic engagement in the formation of new seed libraries, advances in their management protocols and additional innovations that can both educate and offer diverse communities tangible means of safeguarding and enriching their food security, health and cultural expressions of their food heritage;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby declares the week of May 3, 2015, through May 9, 2015, to be:

**"SEED LIBRARY WEEK"**

and applauds the efforts to ensure community access to seeds remains a vital issue and to promote further dialogue and cooperative action.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 21st day of April 2015.

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The Honorable Sharon Bronson, Chair  
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

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Robin Brigode, Clerk  
Pima County Board of Supervisors