

STATE OF ILLINOIS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Illinois is renowned for its breadth of diverse, dynamic, and culturally significant works of artistic excellence; and,

WHEREAS, Jorge Pérez has served as an ambassador of arts and culture through his work as a dancer and as Executive Director of Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater in residence at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU); and,

WHEREAS, from his roots in Puerto Rico, training throughout the United States and Spain, and the subsequent forty years Jorge has spent with Ensemble Español all provide him with an invaluable and unique perspective for sharing this compelling art form with the people of Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, as Executive Director of Ensemble Español, Jorge plays an integral role in promoting Spanish dance, culture, history, and traditions that have educated, entertained, and inspired thousands in audiences throughout Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, Jorge has been honored with multiple awards, including the Artistic Ambassador Award from the Ruth Page Foundation, an Appreciation Award for his exceptional contribution to the arts in Chicago bestowed by Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, recognition by President Barack Obama in 2011, and designation by the Chicago Tribune as a 'Chicagoan of the Year' in 2019; and,

WHEREAS, elevating the arts in Illinois and acquainting the public with rich cultural traditions and diverse artistry is a noble and worthwhile endeavor;

*THEREFORE, I, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim October 9, 2025 to be **Jorge Pérez Day** in Illinois, in recognition of his substantial contributions to the arts and dance, his role as a cultural ambassador, and his significant achievements as a performer, advocate, and arts leader over the last several decades.*

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol in the City of Springfield,
this NINTH *day of* OCTOBER *, in*
the Year of Our Lord, two thousand and
TWENTY-FIVE *, and of the State of Illinois,*
two hundred and SIXTH *.*

Alexi Giannouch
SECRETARY OF STATE

JB Pritzker
GOVERNOR