Adopted by the Board of Education at its Regular Meeting of October 25, 2005

Subject: Resolution No. 510-25A1
In Support of the ROOTS Program of Community Works and McKinley Elementary, Visitacion Valley Middle, and Balboa High School

- Commissioners Eric Mar, Sarah Lipson, Eddie Y. Chin, Dan Kelly, Mark Sanchez, Jill Wynns, and Norman Yee

WHEREAS: ROOTS is a program of Community Works in cooperation with McKinley Elementary School, Visitacion Valley Middle School, and Balboa High School. The program is funded by the San Francisco Department of Children Youth and their Families, Temporary Aid to Needy Families, and private foundations, and

WHEREAS: Community Works [www.community-works-ca.org] is a nonprofit organization dedicated to using the arts and education as a catalyst for change among communities in the San Francisco Bay Area; and

WHEREAS: ROOTS is an innovative, holistic literacy- and arts-based in- and after-school program designed to address the needs of children of incarcerated parents/family members and at-risk youth living in communities impacted by high rates of incarceration; and

WHEREAS: ROOTS reduces levels of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in Children (PTSD) and stigmatization for these children both personally and socially, provides positive experiences for them, fosters their positive self-development and attachment to school, and enables community support for and peer-to-peer support and alliance building among these youth; and

WHEREAS: ROOTS accomplishes these objectives through its multi-dimensional, coordinated intervention for children of incarcerated parents/family members, which includes advocacy, individual case management and referral, one-on-one and group mentoring, expressive arts therapy, academic support and skill-building, and community involvement; and

WHEREAS: ROOTS promotes the resiliency of children of incarcerated parents/family members by providing a Part-time Expressive Arts Therapist and Case Manager at McKinley Elementary School; a Full-time Expressive Arts Therapist, Case Manager, and Youth Advocate at Visitacion Valley Middle School; and a Full-Time Youth Advocate, Facilitator, and Mentor, as well as an intern who is a graduate of the ROOTS program, at Balboa High School; and

WHEREAS: The success of Roots is evident in the 80 families the program serves at McKinley Elementary School, Visitacion Valley Middle School, and Balboa High School, where social and behavioral problems of these youth has dropped drastically since ROOTS has been implemented and where students have demonstrated self-empowerment and also positive leadership skills.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Board of Education of the San Francisco Unified School District, with great respect, honors and commends the ROOTS Program and all staff, students and parents at Balboa, Visitacion Valley Middle and McKinley Schools for building such a successful model of arts-education and school-community cooperation.

Resolution of Commendation

10/25/05