Public Affairs for Creative Districts

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Colorado Executive and Legislative update

Last session successes and challenges

- **CCI budget cut**: During the pandemic CCI lost 45% of their budget and we are trying to work with the legislature to restore those funds.

- **General fund backfill**: Successful passage of legislation to backfill the loss in gaming revenue with general fund for CCI.

- **SB1 relief**: SB 1 that provided $7.5 million in grant funding directly to creative sector individuals and continuing to explore ways to restore funding for the creative sector.
Current session priorities and opportunities

• **Stimulus Plan**: The Governor’s stimulus plan includes a proposed 3-5 million in direct grants that would flow through the SB 1 process as well as additional funding for affordable housing and the space to create program.

• **CCI budget restoration**: WESTAF, CCI and CBCA and the cultural partners have been working together to lobby the Joint Budget Committee to restore the funding for CCI’s budget.

• **Arts Caucus**: After a successful meeting of the legislative arts caucus on the creative district program we are planning another meeting in late April.
Advocacy and policy for creative districts

- **Legislation**: State legislation for creative districts is still being introduced during the pandemic

- **Relief funding**: Federal relief has provided a critical lifeline and now attention is shifting to recovery

- **Getting creative workers working**: Artists and creative workers are the focus of policy discussions

- **Arts advocacy dynamism**: Arts advocacy is becoming more sophisticated, networked, and successful during the pandemic
Legislative Status of Bills Summarized, by Category

Primary Bill Category

- COVID-19: 3 (Public Health) + 18 (Economic) + 15 (Others)
- Public Art and Public Space: 2 (Environment) + 8 (Economic) + 10 (Others) + 1 (Infrastructure)
- Cultural Districts and Creative Economy: 1 (Environment) + 11 (Economic) + 2 (Others)
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: 11 (Public Health) + 1 (Economic) + 1 (Others)
- Arts Education: 1 (Environment) + 5 (Economic) + 2 (Others)
- SAA Policy Directives: 1 (Environment) + 5 (Economic)
- SAA Dedicated Revenue: 3 (Environment) + 3 (Economic) + 1 (Others)
- SAA Structure and Governance: 3 (Public Health) + 1 (Economic)
Arts groups in Southeast Seattle want creative district designation by the state

By ASHLEY GROSS • FEB 22, 2021
American Rescue Plan

- Shuttered Venue Operators Grants
- Paycheck Protection Program
- National Endowment for the Arts COVID-19 Relief
- Broadband access and devices
- Pandemic Unemployment Benefits
- Relief for Nonprofits Self-Insuring Unemployment Benefits
CONTACT YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES AND LET THEM KNOW YOU SUPPORT NIVA.

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# SAVE OUR STAGES
THERE IS NO RECOVERY WITHOUT CREATIVITY.