
THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 40
Author: Allen (D)
Introduced: 4/26/21
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month

SOURCE: Californians for the Arts

DIGEST: This resolution declares that the Legislature joins Californians throughout the state in celebration of 2021 Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month and recognizes the significant role of artists as “Second Responders” in our state.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) April is Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month in the Golden State. Pre-pandemic, California’s arts, culture, and creative industries totaled \$230 billion; represented over 8% of the gross state product, placing the arts ahead of the construction and transportation industries; employed over 750,000 workers; and played a key role in support of, and as a part of, the state’s tourism industry.
- 2) The arts has been among the hardest hit sectors during the pandemic, with 59% of creative workers unemployed by COVID-19, and 69% of creative businesses, including nonprofits, severely impacted and suffering an estimated \$43.1 billion in revenue in 2020.
- 3) The creative community always finds ways to lift us up during our most difficult times; even while facing devastating impacts to their own livelihoods and well-being. While we acknowledge and honor the heroic role of our health care workers and first responders during the COVID-19 pandemic, we also appreciate the ways in which the creative community stepped in as second responders to provide solace to our first responders who have suffered stress and trauma that are often not recognized or supported.
- 4) The pandemic has further highlighted the role of artists as essential workers, including the power of the arts to bring us together through isolation and to

support community mental health and well-being, both during crisis, and as we emerge from trauma.

- 5) State support for the arts, arts education, cultural institutions, and creative venues is crucial for our state to fully recover economically and to provide equitable access to the arts in all communities; and culture and creativity will be essential to bringing about social cohesion, furthering mental health support and wellness, job creation, and opportunities for our youth.

This resolution declares that the Legislature joins Californians throughout the state in celebration of 2021 Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month and recognizes the significant role of artists as “Second Responders” in our state.

Comments

According to Californians for the Arts, the sponsor of this resolution,

Access to the arts will help us survive and overcome the pandemic, and as we emerge from the crisis, we will be a changed society. Artists are vital second responders. In disasters such as Sonoma and Paradise, Houston and New Orleans, the arts fortified the souls and minds of people with the familiar hallmarks of their own culture and identity. Expressions of affirmation and triumph, heartfelt grief, newfound insight and wisdom – it’s creativity that gives us purpose and determination to go on. First responders save lives; second responders help put people’s lives back together. Artists are essential workers in our society and our economy, helping us recover, reflect, and rebuild.

Our creative community in California does more than entertain and inspire – cultural organizations lift up vulnerable neighborhoods and offer young people a path toward a fulfilling future and provide, particularly in communities where resources are least available, a nexus of hope, help, and healing. Our neighborhoods know these cultural organizations as trusted partners.

Related/Prior Legislation

ACR 170 (Kamlager, Resolution Chapter 27, Statutes of 2020) proclaimed March 2020 to be Arts Education Month.

SCR 24 (Leyva, Resolution Chapter 47, Statutes of 2019) proclaimed March 2019 to be Arts Education Month.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/3/21)

Californians for the Arts (source)

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/3/21)

None received

Prepared by: Jonas Austin / SFA / (916) 651-1520
5/5/21 14:51:51

**** **END** ****