

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 20, 2015

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 46**

**Introduced by Assembly Members Calderon and Nazarian**

(Principal coauthor: Senator Allen)

*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Atkins, Baker, Bigelow, Bloom, Bonilla, Bonta, Brown, Burke, Campos, Chang, Chau, Chávez, Chiu, Chu, Cooley, Cooper, Dababneh, Dahle, Daly, Dodd, Eggman, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Gallagher, Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, Gatto, Gipson, Gomez, Gonzalez, Gordon, Gray, Hadley, Harper, Roger Hernández, Holden, Irwin, Jones-Sawyer, Kim, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Lopez, Low, Maienschein, Mathis, Mayes, McCarty, Medina, Melendez, Mullin, Obernolte, O'Donnell, Olsen, Perea, Quirk, Rendon, Ridley-Thomas, Rodriguez, Salas, Santiago, Steinorth, Mark Stone, Thurmond, Ting, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wilk, Williams, and Wood)*

March 17, 2015

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 46—Relative to the Arts Council.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 46, as amended, Calderon. Arts Council: funding.

This measure would declare the importance of the arts to the state and the essential role of the Arts Council in promoting the arts throughout the state, and urge a unified effort between the Legislature and the Governor to provide a substantial increase in the General Fund appropriation to the California Arts Council in the 2015–16 Budget Act.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Since the 1970s, the Arts Council, also known as  
2 the California Arts Council, has served the state by strategically  
3 promoting increased access to the arts for all Californians,  
4 particularly for residents living in communities that lack sufficient  
5 and convenient opportunities to experience the benefits of the arts  
6 in their lives; and

7 WHEREAS, In the past, the state appropriated funds that could  
8 meaningfully support the programs of the Arts Council. However,  
9 beginning in 2003, the annual funding of the Arts Council from  
10 the General Fund drastically dropped, and since that time, the  
11 funding has remained essentially flat at a \$1,000,000 annual  
12 appropriation, making California one of the lowest ranked states  
13 to invest in the arts on per capita basis. The programs of the Arts  
14 Council that once reached rural towns, underserved urban  
15 neighborhoods, prisons, and schools have either been depleted or  
16 discontinued entirely; and

17 WHEREAS, The arts invigorate the state and national  
18 economies. The creative sector has become one of the state's most  
19 important drivers of economic growth. The 2013 OTIS Report on  
20 the Creative Economy, analyzing the economic impact of the  
21 creative economy in the state, concluded that 9.7 percent of jobs  
22 in the state are connected, directly or indirectly, to the creative  
23 industries. A recent report by the U.S. Bureau of Economic  
24 Analysis concluded that the arts and culture sector represent 3.2  
25 percent of the nation's gross domestic product in 2011; and

26 WHEREAS, The arts bolster small and large businesses and the  
27 nonprofit sector. Local merchants directly benefit when people  
28 attend art events in their community because attendees make  
29 purchases related to the event, including, among other things, meals  
30 and parking. Nationally, in 2011, exports outside the United States  
31 of art-related goods, including, but not limited to, movies,  
32 paintings, and jewelry, substantially increased and resulted in a  
33 trade surplus within the arts industry. The national nonprofit arts  
34 industry annually generates billions in economic activity and  
35 provides millions of jobs; and

36 WHEREAS, The arts increase tourism and travel. Arts travelers  
37 are ideal tourists, staying longer and spending more to seek out  
38 authentic cultural experiences than other types of travelers. Reports  
39 show that the percentage of international travelers visiting museums

1 and attending concerts and theater performances has steadily grown  
2 since 2003; and

3 WHEREAS, The arts spark creativity and innovation in the  
4 workforce. Creativity is recognized as one of the top five applied  
5 employee skills sought by business leaders. Nobel laureates in the  
6 sciences are 17 times more likely to be actively engaged in the arts  
7 than other scientists; and

8 WHEREAS, The arts enhance our society. A recent study  
9 demonstrated that a high concentration of the arts in a city leads  
10 to higher civic engagement, more social cohesion, higher child  
11 welfare, and lower poverty rates. A vibrant arts community ensures  
12 that young people are not left to experience their society through  
13 a pop culture and tabloid marketplace; and

14 WHEREAS, The arts improve healthcare. Nearly one-half of  
15 the nation’s healthcare institutions provide arts programming for  
16 patients, families, and staff on the basis that art programs promote  
17 healing in patients, resulting in shorter hospital stays, better pain  
18 management, and less medication; and

19 WHEREAS, The arts are fundamental to our human experience.  
20 The arts inspire us to see our human potential by fostering  
21 creativity, goodness, and beauty. The arts help us express our  
22 values, build bridges between cultures, and bring people together,  
23 regardless of perceived differences in ethnicity, religion, or age.  
24 As a well-known idiom reminds us, “[w]hen times are tough, art  
25 is salve for the ache;” and

26 WHEREAS, The arts improve academic performance. Students  
27 with an education rich in the arts have higher grades and  
28 standardized test scores and lower rates of dropping out of school.  
29 Students with four years of arts or music in high school average  
30 100 more points on their SAT scores than students with just  
31 one-half of a year of arts or music. While art education is mandated  
32 by state law, California is failing to provide a sufficient arts  
33 education. For the past 30 years arts education in schools has been  
34 disappearing at an alarming rate. Between 1999 and 2004, student  
35 enrollment in music education declined by almost half. The state’s  
36 recent fiscal crisis has resulted in still more dramatic cuts to visual  
37 and performing arts education programs for students throughout  
38 the state; and

39 WHEREAS, The Governor’s currently proposed funding for  
40 the Arts Council in the 2015–16 Budget Act is a total of

1 \$5,000,000, a combination of \$1,000,000 from the General Fund,  
2 \$1,000,000 matching federal funds, and the remainder consisting  
3 of revenues from a specialty license plate supporting the arts; and

4 WHEREAS, By increasing the state's investment in the arts  
5 through funding the programs of the Arts Council in the 2015–16  
6 Budget Act, the Legislature and the Governor would strengthen  
7 the ability of the Arts Council to invigorate the state and national  
8 economies, including businesses of all sizes and the nonprofit  
9 sector, foster creativity in the lives of people in their workplace  
10 and communities, secure a more solid cultural and educational  
11 experience for our children, and cultivate healthy human lives,  
12 both physically and emotionally; therefore, be it

13 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
14 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature declares the importance  
15 of the arts to the state and the essential role of the Arts Council  
16 promoting the arts throughout the state; and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges a unified effort between  
18 the Legislature and the Governor to provide a substantial increase  
19 in the General Fund appropriation to the California Arts Council  
20 in the 2015–16 Budget Act; and be it further

21 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit  
22 sufficient copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate  
23 distribution.