

Date of Hearing: April 25, 2023

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, AND TOURISM

Sharon Quirk-Silva, Chair

AB 1258 (Boerner) – As Introduced February 16, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Arts Council

**SUMMARY:** Requires the California Arts Council (CAC) to plan and develop methods for achieving goals related to equity, community impact, artistic practice, and arts programs, which are not currently in statute.

Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Requires CAC to employ strategies to achieve goals related to equity, community impact, artistic practice, and arts programs.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Creates the CAC, consisting of 11-members who serve four-year, staggered terms. Nine members are appointed by the Governor, subject to Senate confirmation, and the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Committee on Rules appoint one member each. (Government Code (GOV) Section 8751)
- 2) Directs CAC to encourage artistic awareness, participation, and expression; to help independent local groups develop their own arts programs; to promote employment of artists and those skilled in crafts in the public and private sector; to provide for exhibition of artistic works in public buildings; and, to enlist the aid of all state agencies in the task of ensuring the fullest expression of artistic potential. (GOV 8753)
- 3) Authorizes CAC to hold hearings, execute agreements, and perform any acts necessary and proper to carry out their designated purposes. (GOV 8753)
- 4) Authorizes CAC to accept federal grants and unrestricted gifts, donations, bequests, or grants of funds from private sources and public agencies. (GOV 8753)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Unknown. This measure has been keyed fiscal by the Legislative Counsel.

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) Author's statement. According to the author, "The cultural arts have always been essential to Californians. The arts have the ability to preserve and teach us about our cultural past, entertain us and expresses a community's heritage and values. It is important that all Californians have access to the arts, regardless of economic status or geographic location. AB 1258 establishes a requirement for the California Arts Council to achieve goals related to equity, community impacts, artistic practice, and arts programs."
- 2) Background. CAC was created in 1975 under then Governor Jerry Brown to increase access to the arts for all Californians. CAC's impact has grown over the years, especially through

efforts that brought arts programming to underserved communities and populations across the state (such as rural communities, inner city neighborhoods, prisons and schools).

Examples of programs the CAC has offered over the years include:

- a) Artists in Schools – Support for arts organizations that partner with schools and/or school districts to facilitate artists-in-residence activities in the classroom and afterschool programs.
  - b) Creating Public Value – Support for arts organizations in rural or underserved areas to implement projects making a positive contribution to their communities.
  - c) Statewide Service Networks – Support for discipline-based arts service organizations and statewide arts networks to strengthen their constituencies and promote the public value of the arts in their communities.
  - d) State-Local Partnerships – Support for local arts agencies designated by county boards of supervisors to provide arts in local communities.
  - e) My California Story Slam – Encourages educators to explore creative writing in their high school classrooms and to draw upon the expressive skills of their students.
  - f) Poetry Out Loud – National recitation contest that encourages high school students to experience poetry through memorization, performance, and competition. Poetry Out Loud is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).
  - g) California Music Project – To help restore music education in public schools, K-12.
  - h) Convenings – Annual statewide arts conference, professional development sessions, with the multicultural infrastructure and statewide service network organizations.
  - i) Poet Laureate – Overview, nomination process, eligibility and criteria for two-year gubernatorial appointment to the position of Poet Laureate and related literary tour.
  - j) Marketing: Public Awareness – Using social change models, marketing & advocacy to reframe the arts as a public value--essential to a healthy society, as critical as free speech.
  - k) Cultural District Programs – Marketing program for local cultural districts which are well-recognized, labeled areas of a city and in which a high concentration of cultural facilities and programs serve as the main anchor of attraction and business development.
- 3) Prior and related legislation:
- a) AB 1382 (Quirk-Silva), of 2023, would direct CAC to create an interdepartmental advisory group to support state-designated cultural districts, and to designate a permanent ongoing staff person to develop, support, and strategically plan the program. (Status: The bill is currently in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations.)

- b) SB 963, Chapter 300, Statutes of 2022, updated provisions for the California Museum Grant Program to align with the state's goals including serving underserved communities, improving access, safety, and resilience of important cultural and historic assets, broadening exposure to the state's diverse history, and supporting the ethical stewardship of sensitive art and artifacts.
  
- c) AB 2456 (Bloom), Chapter 869, Statutes of 2018, authorized CAC to appoint peer review panels and authorized members of those panels to receive compensation.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

There is no support on file.

**Opposition**

There is no opposition on file.

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