

Date of Hearing: May 4, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
SCR 158 (Allen) – As Introduced April 9, 2026

SENATE VOTE: 38-0

SUBJECT: Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month and the 50th Anniversary of the California Arts Council.

SUMMARY: Recognizes April 2026 as a significant time to recognize, appreciate, and celebrate the arts, culture, and creativity of all Californians; and, recognizes the 50th anniversary of the California Arts Council, which supports local arts infrastructure and programming statewide through grants, programs, and services. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month of April is the eighth annual statewide celebration. In 2019, the Legislature adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 33 proclaiming every April as Arts, Culture, and Creativity Month.
- 2) Arts, culture, and creativity are essential drivers of health, hope, and healing within California communities, with critical impacts on economic development and innovation and the social forces necessary to drive progress, build community, educate youth, advance racial justice, and create jobs.
- 3) Exposure to the arts positively impacts health through reducing stress hormones and depression, increasing longevity and cognitive well-being, and fostering interpersonal connection through regular engagement and attendance at cultural events.
- 4) Youth access to arts education and creative programming provides meaningful benefits to hope and perspective, fosters a sense of community and personal fulfillment, and inspires optimism and resilience in the face of challenges.
- 5) Engagement with creative outlets and activities and with cultural experiences provides unique opportunities for healing, offering therapeutic and restorative experiences that enhance well-being, cultivate mental and physical health, and support emotional recovery.
- 6) Art work is real work, and California employs the highest number of people in creative industries — architecture, entertainment, fashion, media, and publishing — than any other state in the nation.
- 7) California is now the fourth largest economy in the world with a creative economy that, according to the recently released Otis College Update on the Creative Economy from April 2026, directly accounts for five percent of all jobs within the state and another six percent across the rest of the state's economy.
- 8) In a state as diverse as California, the arts serve to give a voice to many communities, spark individual creativity, foster empathy and understanding, spur civic engagement, and serve as a continual source of personal enrichment, and inspiration.

- 9) Since its inception in 1976, the California Arts Council has championed the belief that the arts are a public good, essential to the health, vitality, and economic prosperity of our communities and our democracy.
- 10) For five decades, the California Arts Council has served as a powerful catalyst for creativity, investing in thousands of artists, culture bearers, and arts organizations in every corner of the state. This is California For All in action. Artists are the heartbeat of our neighborhoods: they provide the sacred spaces where we gather to reflect, celebrate, and heal.
- 11) The California Arts Council established the State-Local Partners program to ensure that every one of California's 58 counties maintains a direct bridge to their state arts agency. This mosaic of expression lives in our neighborhoods, our corridors, our barrios, and our 24 Cultural Districts, which serve as the vibrant heart of our community identities.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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