

## AB 580, FUNDING FOR THE ARTS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

### ASSEMBLYMEMBER ADRIN NAZARIAN

#### **This bill:**

AB 580 will create jobs and boost California's economy by restoring funding to the arts. Specifically, AB 580 will allocate \$75 million to the California Arts Council, from the General Fund, to fund art programs that will be enjoyed and taken advantage of by local communities throughout the state.

#### **Background:**

Governor Edmund G. Brown created the California Arts Council almost 40 years ago to encourage public participation in the arts; help build strong arts organizations to assist with the professional development of arts leaders; promote awareness of the value of the arts and directly fund art programs in California's communities.

Unfortunately, in the last decade, the California Arts Council's budget has suffered devastating cuts. In the 2000-2001 fiscal year, the state allocated approximately \$30 million dollars to the California Arts Council, the highest allocation in the council's history. Consequently, over the years the state has slashed down allocations to roughly \$17 million in the 2002-2003 fiscal year and roughly \$1.1-1.6 million for all subsequent years. The cuts to the California Arts Council have been steep and have drastically impacted local arts programs in communities statewide.

Today, the state of California spends about 3 cents per resident from the general fund to support of the California Arts Council. This amount is much less than what other states invest in the arts. According to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, California ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the nation of per capita spending on state art agencies.

#### **Purpose:**

At the proposed estimate of \$2.00 per person (which equals approximately 75 million), California would still not rank in the top ten in state funding. However, AB 580 will provide a significant amount of support to the arts and to the residents of California to remediate the lost funding the California Arts Council has faced in the last decade.

The arts contribute significantly to California's economy through tourism, jobs, social services and educational outreach. The arts provide an intellectual infrastructure for our entire creative economy, from technology to the entertainment industry. Just as importantly, the arts are vital to our state's international reputation and to the quality of life that we are very proud of as Californians. Specifically, AB 580 will empower the Arts Council to expand its grant program to continue supporting the arts. The arts have proven vital to California economy, specifically;

Non-Profit Arts-related sector statewide supports:

- 91,000 arts-related businesses
- 500,891 jobs for people in California

Non-profit arts specifically generate:

- \$9.4 billion in total economic impact
- 7.6 % of total employment in California
- \$700 million in state and local taxes

Additionally, the arts:

- Spur cultural tourism with over 6,000,000 arts tourists per year to California
- Revitalize depressed neighborhoods
- Attract creative workers and industries
- Provide a creative infrastructure for innovation and imagination
- Serve as a crucial corollary to California's entertainment industry
- Unite our communities, celebrating diversity and building bridges of tolerance and understanding

**AB 580, FUNDING FOR THE ARTS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**  
**ASSEMBLYMEMBER ADRIN NAZARIAN**

- Shape California's profile as a global focal point for culture and creativity

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- Lowers crime, especially juvenile crime
- Improves health outcomes for the elderly

In addition, public investment in the nonprofit arts has been proven to both spark economic activity in communities and return tax dollars to public coffers. Recent research shows that arts investments made by the state of Pennsylvania generate \$2.50 for the state's treasury for every one dollar spent.

Governor Brown created the Arts Council almost 40 years ago. With this bill, California can re-leverage its powerful arts sector to spark economic recovery now and lay the groundwork for future prosperity in the global economy by returning funding to the California Arts Council.

**Support:**

Californians for the Arts (Sponsor)  
Arts Orange County  
Berkeley Repertory Theatre  
Dancer's Group  
Dragon Productions Theatre Company  
Five Ton Crane  
Ground Series  
Heidi Duckler Dance Theatre  
Los Angeles Dance Foundation  
Marin Theatre Company  
Naval Training Center Foundation, San Diego  
Quinn Associates  
San Diego Youth Symphony and Conservatory  
San Francisco International Arts Festival  
Space 4 Art  
Soka Performing Arts Center, Soka University of America  
Theatre Bay Area  
Theatre Works Silicon Valley  
The Broad Stage  
The California Shakespeare Theater  
The San Diego Visual Arts Network

**Opposition:**

None on file

**Staff Contact:**

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