

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 6165

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to establish a grant program to increase job opportunities for artists and creative professionals, improve the quality and availability of arts facilities and arts-related programming, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CAREY, and Ms. PINGREE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to establish a grant program to increase job opportunities for artists and creative professionals, improve the quality and availability of arts facilities and arts-related programming, and for other purposes.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2        *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Capital, Repairs, and  
3 Employment for Art Talent to Improve Visibility Every-  
4 where Act of 2025” or the “CREATIVE Act of 2025”.

5 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR KEEPING ARTISTS ON THE JOB.**

6 Title II of the Public Works and Economic Develop-  
7 ment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) is amended  
8 by adding at the end the following:

9 **“SEC. 223. GRANTS FOR KEEPING ARTISTS ON THE JOB.**

10 “(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall  
11 carry out a program, to be known as the ‘Creative Econ-  
12 omy Revitalization and Workforce Development Program’,  
13 under which the Secretary awards grants to eligible enti-  
14 ties, on a competitive basis, as follows:

15 “(1) HIRING AND PRODUCTION GRANTS.—The  
16 Secretary may award a grant to an eligible entity to  
17 hire or compensate professional performers, artists,  
18 and related or supporting professional personnel and  
19 staff for productions, projects, performances, exhibi-  
20 tions, workshops, or programs. A grant under this  
21 paragraph shall be in an amount that is not more  
22 than \$5,000,000 and shall remain available for ex-  
23 penditure by the eligible entity for a period of 5  
24 years from the date on which the grant is disbursed  
25 to such entity.

1           “(2)    CONSTRUCTION    AND    ACQUISITION  
2           GRANTS.—The Secretary may award a grant to an  
3           eligible entity to construct or acquire a facility to  
4           house arts productions, projects, performances, exhi-  
5           bitions, workshops, or programs. A grant under this  
6           paragraph shall be in an amount that is not more  
7           than \$3,000,000, shall be accompanied by a commit-  
8           ment from the eligible entity to provide full-time,  
9           gainful employment to professional performers, writ-  
10          ers, artists, and related or supporting professional  
11          personnel upon completion of the grant period and  
12          projects fully or partially funded by the grant, and  
13          shall remain available for expenditure by the eligible  
14          entity for a period of 5 years from the date on which  
15          the grant is disbursed to such entity.

16          “(3)    MAINTENANCE    AND    IMPROVEMENT  
17          GRANTS.—The Secretary may award a grant to an  
18          eligible entity to improve, repair, or maintain an ex-  
19          isting facility housing arts productions, projects, per-  
20          formances, exhibitions, workshops, or programs. A  
21          grant under this paragraph shall be in an amount  
22          that is not more than \$3,000,000, shall be accom-  
23          panied by a commitment from the eligible entity to  
24          provide gainful employment to professional per-  
25          formers and related or supporting professional per-

1       sonnel during and upon completion of the grant pe-  
2       riod and projects fully or partially funded by the  
3       grant, and shall remain available for expenditure by  
4       the eligible entity for a period of 3 years from the  
5       date on which the grant is disbursed to such entity.

6       “(b) PROHIBITION ON MULTIPLE AWARDS.—An eli-  
7       gible entity may not receive more than 1 grant under sub-  
8       section (a).

9       “(c) APPLICATION.—To be considered for a grant  
10      under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an appli-  
11      cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and  
12      accompanied by such information as the Secretary may  
13      require. At a minimum each application shall include the  
14      following:

15             “(1) The type of grant for which the entity is  
16      applying from among the grant types described in  
17      paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a).

18             “(2) A description of the specific purposes for  
19      which the entity proposes to use the grant, includ-  
20      ing, as applicable—

21                     “(A) examples of productions, projects,  
22      performances, exhibitions, workshops, or pro-  
23      grams that may be—

24                             “(i) housed at a facility supported by  
25      the grant; or

1           “(ii) produced by employing profes-  
2           sional performers and related or sup-  
3           porting professional personnel artists or  
4           staff members supported or employed by  
5           the grant; and

6           “(B) the perceived benefits that such pro-  
7           ductions, projects, performances, exhibitions,  
8           workshops, or programs provide to professional  
9           performers and related or supporting profes-  
10          sional personnel, and the communities served by  
11          the eligible entity.

12          “(3) A description of the level of access to arts  
13          facilities and programming in the communities  
14          served by the eligible entity and, if applicable, identi-  
15          fication of any disparities or gaps in such access.

16          “(4) A explanation of how the entity conducted,  
17          or intends to conduct, outreach and acquire input  
18          from the community in which the grant funds will  
19          be used, including input from, low-income individ-  
20          uals, individuals with disabilities, and other under-  
21          represented individuals in such community that are  
22          underrepresented in the creative sector, as well as  
23          arts labor organizations.

24          “(5) A description of any input received as a  
25          result of the outreach under paragraph (4).

1           “(6) A description of the steps the board or  
2 other appropriate overseeing body of such eligible  
3 entity has taken to ensure that governance of the or-  
4 ganization includes representation from individuals  
5 described in paragraph (4).

6           “(7) A description of—

7               “(A) the level of community need for the  
8 activities proposed to be carried out with grant  
9 funds; and

10              “(B) the extent to which such activities  
11 will be supported by additional funds from the  
12 community and other sources.

13           “(8) If applicable, a comprehensive plan de-  
14 scribing how the eligible entity will continue to oper-  
15 ate any facility supported by the grant after the  
16 grant funds have been expended, including how the  
17 eligible entity will continue employing or facilitating  
18 employment for professional performers, writers, art-  
19 ists, and related or supporting professional per-  
20 sonnel.

21           “(9) An attestation that the eligible entity will  
22 not abrogate existing collective bargaining agree-  
23 ments for the entire duration of the grant period.

24           “(10) An attestation that the eligible entity re-  
25 ceiving a grant will abide by the labor standards of

1 professional performers and personnel and guarantee  
2 to provide healthy and safe working conditions under  
3 section 5(m) of the National Foundation on the Arts  
4 and the Humanities Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
5 954(m)).

6 “(11) An attestation that the eligible entity re-  
7 ceiving a grant will provide or facilitate gainful em-  
8 ployment for professional performers and related or  
9 supporting professional personnel.

10 “(12) Any other information or assurances the  
11 Secretary determines appropriate.

12 “(d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-  
13 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities  
14 that meet 1 or more of the following criteria (with higher  
15 priority given to eligible entities that meet more than 1  
16 such criteria):

17 “(1) The eligible entity is located in a commu-  
18 nity with limited access to high-quality arts produc-  
19 tions, projects, performances, exhibitions, or pro-  
20 grams, which may be indicated by—

21 “(A) the community having 1 or fewer fa-  
22 cilities for hosting arts programming;

23 “(B) the presence of an arts facility in the  
24 community that is in state of disrepair, a phys-  
25 ical state that is not conducive to regularly host

1 upgrades necessary for fully accessible work-  
2 places for professional performers and related  
3 or supporting professional personnel with dis-  
4 abilities; or

5 “(C) the presence of an arts facility in the  
6 community that has canceled, paused, or re-  
7 duced the length of a production season during  
8 any of the 3 years preceding the grant applica-  
9 tion.

10 “(2) The eligible entity proposes to use the  
11 grant to employ professional performers and related  
12 or supporting professional personnel and to expand  
13 arts productions, projects, performances, exhibitions,  
14 workshops, or programs from linguistically and cul-  
15 turally diverse populations who are considered eth-  
16 nic, cultural, religious, or linguistic minorities and  
17 whose art is underrepresented in popular culture.

18 “(3) The eligible entity demonstrates no-fault  
19 financial hardship, limited support from State and  
20 local government sources, or a level of income insuf-  
21 ficient to self-fund the activities for which the grant  
22 is sought.

23 “(4) The eligible entity proposes to use the  
24 grant to employ professional performers and related  
25 or supporting professional personnel and to host or

1 produce arts productions, projects, performances, ex-  
2 hibitions, or programs that, if applicable, provide in-  
3 sight and perspective on current or historical events  
4 or local or regional economic issues.

5 “(5) The eligible entity is not a recipient of an-  
6 other grant under this title and the entity has not  
7 previously received a grant under this title.

8 “(6) The eligible entity proposes to use the  
9 grant to improve access to arts productions,  
10 projects, performances, exhibitions, or programs for  
11 people with disabilities, or to hire professional per-  
12 formers and other related or supporting professional  
13 personnel.

14 “(7) The eligible entity is located in a rural  
15 community.

16 “(8) The eligible entity provides individual art-  
17 ists and groups of artists with the opportunity to  
18 display or produce projects, performances, exhibi-  
19 tions, workshops, or programs.

20 “(9) The eligible entity proposes to use the  
21 grant for a purpose that furthers arts education in  
22 the community in which such funds will be used.

23 “(e) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—An eligible en-  
24 tity that receives a grant under this section may use the  
25 grant only to supplement, and not to supplant, funds made

1 available from non-Federal sources to carry out the activi-  
2 ties supported by such grant.

3 “(f) ACCOUNTABILITY.—The Secretary shall regu-  
4 larly review the activities of eligible entities receiving  
5 grants under this section to ensure that such entities are  
6 using the grant for the purposes for which it was provided  
7 and are otherwise in compliance with the requirements of  
8 this section.

9 “(g) TREATMENT OF UNEXPENDED FUNDS.—Funds  
10 received by an eligible entity under subsection (a) that are  
11 not expended within the allowable period specified in such  
12 subsection shall be returned to Secretary unless the Sec-  
13 retary makes a written determination that the entity may  
14 continue to expend the funds after the expiration of such  
15 period.

16 “(h) REPORTS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—On an annual basis during  
18 each year of the grant period, an eligible entity that  
19 receives a grant under this section shall submit to  
20 the Secretary a report that includes a description of  
21 the following:

22 “(A) How the grant funds were used in the  
23 year covered by the report.

24 “(B) The effects, in the immediate term  
25 and over the remaining period of the grant, of

1           “(B) The effects, in the immediate term  
2 and over the remaining period of the grant, of  
3 the activities supported by the grant with re-  
4 spect to—

5                   “(i) increasing access to arts facilities  
6 and programming within the community  
7 served by the eligible entity;

8                   “(ii) reducing disparities in access to  
9 such facilities and programming in such  
10 communities; and

11                   “(iii) providing or facilitating full-time  
12 gainful employment for professional per-  
13 formers and related or supporting profes-  
14 sional personnel.

15           “(C) To the extent applicable, how the  
16 grant has or will be used to—

17                   “(i) increase work opportunities for  
18 professional performers and related or sup-  
19 porting professional personnel;

20                   “(ii) improve an existing facility’s  
21 ability to host or produce high-quality arts  
22 productions, projects, performances, exhibi-  
23 tions, or programs;

24                   “(iii) contribute to the construction or  
25 acquisition of a facility to host or produce

1 high-quality arts productions, projects, per-  
2 formances, exhibitions, or programs, and if  
3 acquisition or construction of such facility  
4 is complete, how the facility has been able  
5 to host or assist in the production of such  
6 programming;

7 “(iv) support increasing the number  
8 of high-quality arts productions, projects,  
9 performances, exhibitions, workshops, or  
10 programs from linguistically and culturally  
11 diverse populations who are considered eth-  
12 nic, cultural, religious, or linguistic minori-  
13 ties and whose art is underrepresented in  
14 popular culture; and

15 “(v) improve access to arts produc-  
16 tions, projects, performances, exhibitions,  
17 or programs for artists with disabilities  
18 and other people with disabilities or to im-  
19 prove an eligible entity’s ability to employ  
20 professional performers and related or sup-  
21 porting professional personnel with disabil-  
22 ities.

23 “(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Not later than  
24 180 days after receiving a report under paragraph  
25 (1), the Secretary shall make the report available on

1 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 “(1) ARTS LABOR ORGANIZATION.—The term  
3 ‘arts labor organization’ means an organization  
4 which is exempt from tax under section 501(c)(5) of  
5 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

6 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
7 tity’ means—

8 “(A) a local arts agency;

9 “(B) a museum; or

10 “(C) any other nonprofit arts organization,  
11 including literary arts organizations, performing  
12 arts organizations, and professional nonprofit  
13 theaters, that is described in section 501(c)(3)  
14 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and ex-  
15 empt from taxation under section 501(a) of  
16 such Code.

17 “(3) MUSEUM.—The term ‘museum’ has the  
18 meaning given that term in section 273(1) of the  
19 Museum Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9172(1)).

20 “(4) PROFESSIONAL NONPROFIT THEATER.—  
21 The term ‘professional nonprofit theater’ means a  
22 nonprofit arts organization that is described in sec-  
23 tion 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986  
24 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of  
25 such Code that—

1           “(A) produces live choral, dance, musical,  
2           theatrical, operatic, orchestral, symphonic, or  
3           variety performances;

4           “(B) compensates all professional per-  
5           formers and related or supporting professional  
6           personnel at no less than the prevailing min-  
7           imum compensation under 20 U.S.C. 954(m);

8           “(C) hosts events that are produced and  
9           managed by paid employees and not volunteers;

10           “(D) has a minimum of a 3-year history of  
11           programming prior to applying for a grant  
12           under this section;

13           “(E) has not violated any laws enforced by  
14           the Department of Labor, Equal Employment  
15           Opportunity Commission, National Labor Rela-  
16           tions Board, or equivalent State agencies in the  
17           3 years prior to applying for a grant under this  
18           section; and

19           “(F) is not engaged in a strike, lockout, or  
20           other labor dispute at the time of applying for  
21           a grant under this section.

22           “(5) RURAL COMMUNITY.—The term ‘rural  
23           community’ means a community in an area that is  
24           not designated by the Bureau of the Census as an  
25           urbanized area or urban cluster.

1           “(6) RELATED OR SUPPORTING PROFESSIONAL  
2 PERSONNEL.—The term ‘related or supporting pro-  
3 fessional personnel’ means any staff member at an  
4 eligible entity that performs specialized work to  
5 produce arts productions, projects, performances, ex-  
6 hibitions, or programs at that entity.

7           “(7) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
8 the Secretary of Commerce.

9           “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

10           “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be  
11 appropriated to carry out this section \$700,000,000  
12 for each of the fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

13           “(2) RESERVATIONS.—From the amount appro-  
14 priated under paragraph for each fiscal year, the  
15 Secretary—

16           “(A) shall reserve up to 25 percent to  
17 make grants under this section to eligible enti-  
18 ties located in rural communities; and

19           “(B) may reserve—

20           “(i) not more than 30 percent to pro-  
21 vide Maintenance and Improvement  
22 Grants;

23           “(ii) not more than 1 percent to pro-  
24 vide technical assistance to eligible entities

1           that are receiving grants under this sec-  
2           tion; and

3                   “(ii) not more than 0.5 percent to en-  
4           sure the Economic Development Adminis-  
5           tration has sufficient personnel to carry  
6           out the program under this section.

7           “(3) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds made  
8           available by this Act may be used for any activity  
9           that is subject to the reporting requirements set  
10          forth in section 203(a) of the Labor-Management  
11          Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (29 U.S.C.  
12          433(a)).”.

○