
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 383 Session of
2018

INTRODUCED BY COSTA AND BROWNE, JUNE 11, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
JUNE 11, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish an
2 advisory committee to conduct a study relating to cultural
3 and creative districts and to report its findings and
4 recommendations to the Senate.

5 WHEREAS, State agencies throughout our nation are
6 increasingly adopting and implementing policies for place-based
7 economic development and community revitalization through arts
8 and culture; and

9 WHEREAS, Designating cultural and creative districts
10 consolidates highly adaptable economic, community and
11 recreational development tools in urban and rural settings to
12 distinguish the unique conditions, assets, needs and
13 opportunities of a community; and

14 WHEREAS, Sustaining cultural and creative districts as hubs
15 of economic activity supports jobs and enhances creative
16 development, civic identity and tourism; and

17 WHEREAS, Sustaining cultural and creative districts as
18 marketable tourism assets highlights the distinct identity of
19 communities, draws in-State, out-of-State and international

1 visitors and strengthens ancillary businesses such as
2 restaurants and lodging; and

3 WHEREAS, By integrating many types of businesses, cultural
4 and creative districts drive commercial and industrial
5 development as well as investment in the arts and entertainment
6 for the benefit of area residents, visitors, public and private
7 institutions and regional networks; and

8 WHEREAS, Cultural and creative districts showcase existing
9 attractions, features and amenities and recruit new artists,
10 businesses and organizations; and

11 WHEREAS, Adaptive reuse and rehabilitation of historic
12 properties, including facade and structural improvements, is a
13 common activity in cultural and creative districts; and

14 WHEREAS, The nonprofit arts industry in this Commonwealth
15 generates \$3.4 billion in total economic activity annually and
16 \$400 million in State and local government revenue; and

17 WHEREAS, The nonprofit arts industry in this Commonwealth
18 supports the full-time equivalent of 100,000 jobs that produce
19 \$2.2 billion in household income; and

20 WHEREAS, The Pittsburgh Cultural District is credited with
21 promoting Pittsburgh's economic resurgence and providing a
22 foundation for the downtown neighborhood; and

23 WHEREAS, States that are using formal programs to encourage
24 and promote cultural and creative districts are adopting
25 policies that include:

- 26 (1) certifying districts;
- 27 (2) setting standards for certification;
- 28 (3) providing technical assistance;
- 29 (4) ensuring broad and equitable eligibility for
30 participation;

- 1 (5) implementing incentive programs, including tax
2 incentives, to attract businesses, artists and organizations;
3 (6) prioritizing State assistance for entities within
4 districts;
5 (7) providing marketing and promotions; and
6 (8) offering a supportive environment for arts and
7 culture;

8 therefore be it

9 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government
10 Commission to establish an advisory committee of 18 members
11 consisting of experts in the arts, cultural districts, municipal
12 government and community and economic development; and be it
13 further

14 RESOLVED, That the membership of the committee be balanced so
15 that it encompasses a wide range of backgrounds and viewpoints;
16 and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee contain the following
18 individuals:

19 (1) the Secretary of Community and Economic Development
20 or the secretary's designee;

21 (2) the executive director of the Commonwealth of
22 Pennsylvania Council on the Arts or the executive director's
23 designee;

24 (3) the managing director of the Citizens for the Arts
25 in Pennsylvania or the managing director's designee;

26 (4) the chief executive officer of the Greater
27 Pittsburgh Arts Council or the chief executive officer's
28 designee;

29 (5) the President of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural
30 Alliance or the president's designee;

1 (6) the executive director of the Pennsylvania Downtown
2 Center or the executive director's designee;

3 (7) the president of the Pennsylvania Restaurant and
4 Lodging Association or the president's designee;

5 (8) the president of the County Commissioners
6 Association of Pennsylvania or the president's designee;

7 (9) the president of the Pennsylvania Municipal League
8 or the president's designee;

9 (10) the executive director of the Pennsylvania
10 Humanities Council or the executive director's designee;

11 (11) the executive director of the Pennsylvania
12 Historical and Museum Commission or the executive director's
13 designee;

14 (12) the executive director of PA Museums or the
15 executive director's designee; and

16 (13) six members of the public who are experts in
17 promoting, marketing and encouraging arts, culture and the
18 humanities as applied to economic, community and recreational
19 development;

20 and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission, working
22 with the advisory committee, identify:

23 (1) the number of existing cultural or creative
24 districts in this Commonwealth and their location and
25 history;

26 (2) differences between urban and rural cultural
27 districts;

28 (3) trends and models of Pennsylvania cultural and
29 creative districts and how they compare to those in other
30 states;

1 (4) the types of businesses, organizations, artists,
2 facilities and other physical assets that are common to
3 cultural and creative districts;

4 (5) the impact of creative and cultural districts on the
5 built environment, including rehabilitating historic,
6 abandoned or blighted properties;

7 (6) organizational and financial structures which
8 support the cultural and creative districts;

9 (7) jobs supported within cultural and creative
10 districts and new employment opportunities that can be
11 generated through private, public or private-public
12 activities; and

13 (8) best practices in other states for providing support
14 to cultural and creative districts;

15 and be it further

16 RESOLVED, That the final report include recommendations to
17 implement necessary changes in State statutes, practices,
18 policies and procedures relating to cultural and creative
19 districts; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Joint State Government Commission report
21 its findings and recommendations to the Senate no later than 15
22 months from the adoption of this resolution.