



WASHINGTON STATE
ARTS COMMISSION

711 Capitol Way S. Suite 600
PO Box 42675
Olympia, WA 98504-2675
Phone: (360) 753-3860
Website: www.arts.wa.gov

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BOARD RESOLUTION 2017-001

Urging the Legislature to support full funding of the Washington State Arts Commission, creative industry jobs in the state and HB 1183/SB 5300

WHEREAS, the Washington State Arts Commission invests in Washington communities and is committed to advancing the role of the arts in creative placemaking and economic prosperity;

WHEREAS, the Commission's Arts in Education program supports, expands, and improves arts education as part of basic education for all Washington students in grades K-12;

WHEREAS, the Commission's community investments include support of local organizations, projects that are reflective of our state's diverse population, and arts and cultural activities that generate economic impact ;

WHEREAS, in FY 2017 Washington State ranks 46th in the nation in terms of per capita investment in the arts at just \$0.16 cents per capita;

WHEREAS, compared to other states in the west, Washington State funding for the arts declined by the second highest percentage from FY 2016 to FY 2017.

WHEREAS, the Commission's FY 2016 local community investments generated an additional \$43.9 million in local and private investment, helping to grow local jobs, and contributing to the state's creative economy;

WHEREAS, in FY 2014, Washington State's 150,006 creative industry jobs generated \$19.4 billion in total creative industry earnings;

WHEREAS, the Washington State Arts Commission is committed to supporting investment programs that benefit local communities as well as statewide creative activities and economic development;

NOW THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the citizen Board of the Washington State Arts Commission urges the State Legislature to fully fund the biennial operating budget request of the Washington State Arts Commission;

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board requests that the State Legislature support HB 1183 and SB 5300, the enabling legislation that allows the State Arts Commission to develop a statewide creative districts certification program which integrates the arts, culture, creativity, and innovation into economic development, tourism, and quality of life initiatives.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Board of the Washington State Arts Commission at a regular open public meeting on this 7th day of February, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bassem Bejjani".

Bassem Bejjani, Chairperson