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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 193 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY COSTA, BROWNE, LANGERHOLC, BOSCOLA, FONTANA,  
SANTARSIERO, BREWSTER, SCHWANK, FARNESE, DINNIMAN, K. WARD,  
HAYWOOD, MENSCH, J. WARD, KILLION, YUDICHAK, TARTAGLIONE AND  
STEFANO, AUGUST 7, 2019

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REFERRED TO COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC AND RECREATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,  
AUGUST 7, 2019

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A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

16 WHEREAS, Sustaining creative districts as marketable tourism  
17 assets highlights the distinct identity of communities, draws

1 in-State, out-of-State and international visitors and  
2 strengthens ancillary businesses such as restaurants and  
3 lodging; and

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

9 WHEREAS, Creative districts showcase existing attractions,  
10 features and amenities and recruit new artists, businesses and  
11 organizations; and

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

15 WHEREAS, The nonprofit arts industry in this Commonwealth  
16 generates \$3.4 billion in total economic activity annually and  
17 \$402 million in State and local government revenue; and

18 WHEREAS, The nonprofit arts industry in this Commonwealth  
19 supports the equivalent of 100,000 full-time jobs that produce  
20 \$2.2 billion in household income; and

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

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

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

1 participation;

2 (5) implementing incentive programs, including tax  
3 incentives, to attract businesses, artists and organizations;

4 (6) prioritizing State assistance for entities within  
5 districts;

6 (7) providing marketing and promotions; and

7 (8) offering a supportive environment for the arts;

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, municipal government and  
12 community and economic development; and be it further

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (6) the executive director of the Pennsylvania Downtown

1 Center or the executive director's designee;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 and be it further

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

22 (1) the number of existing creative districts in this  
23 Commonwealth and their location and history;

24 (2) differences between urban and rural creative  
25 districts;

26 (3) trends and models of Pennsylvania creative districts  
27 and how they compare to those in other states;

28 (4) the types of businesses, organizations, artists,  
29 facilities and other physical assets that are common to  
30 creative districts;

1           (5) the impact of creative districts on the built  
2 environment, including rehabilitating historic, abandoned or  
3 blighted properties;

4           (6) organizational and financial structures which  
5 support the creative districts;

6           (7) jobs supported within creative districts and new  
7 employment opportunities that can be generated through  
8 private, public or private-public activities; and

9           (8) best practices in other states for providing support  
10 to creative districts;

11 and be it further

12       RESOLVED, That the final report include recommendations to  
13 implement necessary changes in State statutes, practices,  
14 policies and procedures relating to creative districts; and be  
15 it further

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