
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 818 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY SIMS, GUENST, HILL-EVANS, SCHLOSSBERG, SANCHEZ,
A. DAVIS, GUZMAN, DAVIDSON, CIRESI, ISAACSON, KINKEAD AND
NEILSON, MARCH 8, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON URBAN AFFAIRS, MARCH 8, 2021

AN ACT

1 Establishing the Public Arts Grant Program and the Public Arts
2 Fund; conferring powers and imposing duties on the Department
3 of Community and Economic Development; and making an
4 appropriation.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Short title.

8 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Public Arts
9 Grant Program Act.

10 Section 2. Definitions.

11 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
12 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
13 context clearly indicates otherwise:

14 "Community organization." A nonprofit organization that
15 partners with artists in a city of the first class with an
16 established goal and purpose to improve their community.

17 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic
18 Development of the Commonwealth.

1 "Fund." The Public Arts Fund established under section 4.

2 "Program." The Public Arts Grant Program established under
3 section 3.

4 Section 3. Public Arts Grant Program.

5 (a) Establishment.--The Public Arts Grant Program is
6 established within the department.

7 (b) Powers and duties of department.--The department shall
8 provide grants under the program in accordance with this act to
9 community organizations and artists for the creation of public
10 art that is free and accessible to the public and depicts or
11 benefits historically marginalized communities.

12 Section 4. Public Arts Fund.

13 (a) Establishment.--The Public Arts Fund is established as a
14 separate account in the State Treasury. The fund shall be
15 administered by the department to provide grants under the
16 program.

17 (b) Continuing appropriation.--Money in the fund is
18 appropriated on a continuing basis to the department for
19 purposes of the program.

20 Section 5. Applications.

21 (a) Development and availability.--Grant application forms
22 shall be developed by the department and made available on the
23 department's publicly accessible Internet website.

24 (b) Contents of form.--At a minimum, the grant application
25 form shall contain the following information:

26 (1) The name, address and contact information of the
27 community organization or artist.

28 (2) The amount of grant money requested.

29 (3) A detailed description of the proposed public art
30 installation, including murals, sculptures, statues and

1 temporary public art installations.

2 (4) An explanation of how the proposed public art
3 installation will be free to the public and how the public
4 will be able to access the proposed public art installation
5 produced with the grant money.

6 (5) Proof of any permits required by a city of the first
7 class or permission or permits from another government
8 entity, including a school district or political subdivision.

9 (6) A timeline of the proposed public art installation,
10 including a proposed completion date.

11 (7) Any other information that the department deems
12 necessary and appropriate.

13 (c) Compliance.--The department shall verify in writing on
14 each grant application that the application complies with all
15 requirements under section 6.

16 Section 6. Requirements.

17 The following shall apply:

18 (1) Grants shall be awarded by the department to
19 eligible community organizations and artists who have been
20 approved by the department.

21 (2) Grants may only be given to community organizations'
22 headquarters within a city of the first class.

23 (3) Proposed public art installations must be completed
24 within three years of the award of the grant. If a proposed
25 public art installation is not completed within three years,
26 the department may take action to retrieve the awarded grant.
27 The department may grant a one-year extension to a proposed
28 art installation if the project experienced delays not the
29 fault of the community organization or artist.

30 Section 7. Administration.

1 The department shall develop guidelines for the
2 implementation of the program.

3 Section 8. Award of grants.

4 (a) General rule.--The department shall award grants to
5 eligible community organizations and artists who have been
6 approved by the department.

7 (b) Amount.--Grant amounts may not exceed a maximum of
8 \$100,000 for each community organization or artist approved by
9 the department.

10 Section 9. Appropriation.

11 The sum of \$1,000,000 is appropriated to the fund from the
12 General Fund to carry out the purposes of this act.

13 Section 10. Effective date.

14 This act shall take effect in 60 days.