

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 903 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY WAXMAN, SMITH-WADE-EL, BURGOS, KENYATTA, MADDEN,
GIRAL, HILL-EVANS, PROBST, KINKEAD, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, BRIGGS,
SAMUELSON, SANCHEZ, KHAN, MALAGARI, SALISBURY AND RABB,
APRIL 12, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,
APRIL 12, 2023

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 who reside in this Commonwealth with an
16 established goal and purpose to improve their community.

17 "Department." The Department of Community and Economic

1 Development of the Commonwealth.

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

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

5 Section 3. Public Arts Grant Program.

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

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

13 Section 4. Public Arts Fund.

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

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

21 Section 5. Applications.

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

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

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

29 (2) The amount of grant money requested.

30 (3) A detailed description of the proposed public art

1 installation, including murals, sculptures, statues and
2 temporary public art installations.

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

7 (5) Proof of any permits required by a municipality or
8 permission or permits from another government entity,
9 including a school district or political subdivision.

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

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

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

17 Section 6. Requirements.

18 The following shall apply:

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

22 (2) Grants may only be given to community organizations'
23 headquarters in this Commonwealth.

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

1 Section 7. Administration.

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

4 Section 8. Award of grants.

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

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

11 Section 9. Appropriation.

12 The sum of \$10,000,000 is appropriated to the fund from the
13 General Fund to carry out the purposes of this act.

14 Section 10. Effective date.

15 This act shall take effect in 60 days.