

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9387



Introduced by Honorable Mark O. Go

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2017, Baguio City became the first Philippine city to be inducted into the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. The city has been recognized by the global initiative for its crafts and folk arts expressions which do not only showcase indigenous talents, but also provide sustainable livelihood to many residents through the city's local trade and creative tourism economy. Culture and the arts are essential to the holistic development of our society, recognized by the very Constitution as a means to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development. As such, it is important to inculcate in the youth the value of the arts, to give them an avenue for their creative pursuits, and to introduce them to the real world opportunities in the arts and the creative sector.

Supporting creative industries is a concrete means towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, directly addressing many of its identified goals. Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focuses on inclusive and sustainable urbanization and the protection and safeguarding of the world's cultural heritage. The SDGs recognize that it is not only possible but indeed imperative that urban development should be pursued erstwhile preserving and promoting our culture and traditions. According to UNESCO, there are currently 56 local institutions directly devoted to Baguio's creative sector, totaling a gross receipt of US\$1,113,258. The key towards developing the sector's sustainability is ensuring intergenerational transfer of knowledge and skills and development of the creative sector through a formal academic institution with focus on the arts.

Baguio is a cosmopolitan of people from all over Luzon, bringing with them their distinct local culture and heritage. While the city is well known for its strong tourism economy, with the local creative sector leading this particular industry, Baguio also hosts various technological parks and encourages a culture of innovation and modernization. The city is a cultural, technological, and academic hub in northern Luzon, which provides the optimal environment for young Filipinos to explore and cultivate their passion for the arts.

By creating the Baguio City High School for the Arts, the youth of Baguio and even those from neighboring areas, will have a place where their aptitude and skills in culture and the arts can be properly honed with the right environment, facilities, and curriculum. Through this specialized institution, free artistic and intellectual expression can foster with the guidance of trained professionals, and properly complemented with the necessary academic foundation so the students are still free and able to enter any field of study or profession they may choose upon graduation. Still, a high school for the arts will allow the youth to see the creative sector as a viable option for career and livelihood.

Baguio is home to National Artists Benedicto Cabrera, better known as BenCab, and Eric Oteyza de Guia or Kidlat Tahimik. But apart from renowned Filipino artists are many up-and-coming young artists from various fields of traditional and contemporary art who also hail from Baguio. It is envisioned that from the ranks of the future graduates of the proposed high school will rise the next industry captains and National Artists who will proudly showcase the Filipino culture and talent to the international stage.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this significant measure is earnestly sought.



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AN ACT
CREATING A HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS IN THE CITY OF BAGUIO TO BE
KNOWN AS THE BAGUIO CITY HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is a declared policy of the State to foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture based on the principle of unity in diversity in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression.

Towards this end, the State shall promote the sustained development of young Filipinos whose aptitude and skill in culture and the arts shall be properly encouraged and honed through education and specialized training programs. The State shall establish, maintain, and support a complete, adequate, and integrated system of education and training to encourage the artistic talent and cultural aptitude of the Filipino youth as well as support and promote the development of young artists nationwide.

SEC. 2. *Creation of the Baguio City High School for the Arts.* - There is hereby created a high school for the arts in the City of Baguio to be known as the "Baguio City High School for the Arts", hereafter referred to as the "School".

The School shall be administered and supervised by the Department of Education (DepEd), in close coordination with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP). The NCCA and CCP shall provide policy direction and technical assistance to the School through the DepEd CAR Regional Office and Schools Division Office of Baguio City.

SEC. 3. *Mandate.* - The School shall implement a general secondary curriculum, as prescribed by the Republic Act No. 10533 or the "Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013", with special focus on the arts that shall aid in recognizing early the talent, skills and

exceptional giftedness of students, thereby ensuring the nurturance of artists of excellence and the preservation and promotion of Filipino heritage.

SEC. 4. *School Director.* - There shall be a School Director who shall serve as the Head and chief academic officer of the school. The functions, powers and duties shall be similar to the Office of the Principal of any high school in the Philippine education system.

The School Director shall serve a term of five (5) years, render full-time work, and shall be eligible for reappointment to another term, who shall be appointed by the DepEd Secretary, subject to the guidelines and qualifications set forth in the implementing rules and regulations, upon the recommendation of a duly constituted Search Committee.

A Search Committee shall be constituted by the DepEd Regional Director in consultation with the heads of the NCCA and CCP. It shall be formed immediately upon the approval of the implementing rules and regulations of this Act, and shall reconvene again within six (6) months before the expiration of the term of the School Director.

The salary of the School Director shall be equivalent to Principal IV in accordance with the Revised Compensation and Position Classification System.

SEC. 5. *Position Structure and Staffing Pattern.* - The position structure and staffing pattern of the School shall be prescribed by the DepEd upon the recommendation of the School Director, subject to the approval of the Department of Budget and Management.

SEC. 6. *School Fund.* - All government appropriations for and other income generated by the School, as well as all legacies, gifts, donations, grants, endowments, contributions and other similar transfers of real and personal properties of all kinds received by the School, shall constitute the School Fund.

The Fund shall be exclusively utilized for the School's program for the arts, subject to the Commission on Audit (COA) rules and regulations.

SEC. 7. *Authority to Solicit and Receive Donations and Grants.* – The School Director, with the approval of the DepEd Regional Director and Schools Division Superintendent, may solicit, negotiate with, and received in trust from any public or private, domestic or foreign sources, legacies, gifts, donations, grants, endowments, contributions or other transfers of ownership and/or possession of real or personal properties of all kinds in favor and for the benefit of the School; *Provided*, That the School Director shall, in accordance with pertinent accounting and auditing laws, rules and regulations, prescribe the necessary measures for the proper use, maintenance and safekeeping of said donations, grants, endowments, contributions or transfers and the compliance of the terms and conditions thereon, if any.

SEC. 8. *Development Plan and Organizational Structure.* - Within the period of one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, and the approval of its implementing rules and regulations, the School shall accomplish the following:

- (a) Submit a five (5)-year development plan, including its corresponding budgetary program to the DepEd for corresponding recommendation to the DBM; and

(b) Set up its organizational, administrative, as well as academic structure, including the appointment of the School officials, subject to the qualifications set forth in this Act.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual appropriations of DepEd as contained in the General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DepEd, in coordination with NCCA and CCP, shall issue within a period of ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* - If, for any reason, any portion or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.