

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. **9951**

**Introduced by REPRESENTATIVES LANI MERCADO-REVILLA,
BRYAN B. REVILLA AND RAMON JOLO REVILLA III**

AN ACT EXPANDING THE EX OFFICIO MEMBERSHIP OF THE PHILIPPINE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO INCLUDE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON DISABILITY AFFAIRS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11904, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT ACT"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As we commemorate National Arts Month this February, our commitment to fostering inclusivity in the arts remains steadfast.

People with Disabilities (PWDs) are integral participants in the creative industries – as artists, creators, administrators, audiences, and visitors – yet they encounter significant barriers in accessing the arts, honing their talents, and gaining recognition for their work. Their opportunities too often have been constrained by the attitudes of nondisabled individuals.

Embedded in international agreements, such as the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, is the fundamental right of PWDs to access cultural venues, enjoy cultural materials, and participate in cultural

activities.¹ It is essential that everyone has the freedom to participate fully in the cultural life of their community and to reap the benefits of artistic expression.²

Various nations have taken proactive steps to promote accessibility in the arts. For instance, South Korea's Culture and Arts Promotion Act provides enhanced cultural and art educational opportunities for PWDs, and necessary assistance to enhance their cultural rights.³ In the United States, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act stipulates that federally funded projects must ensure physical accessibility to cultural institutions and spaces.⁴ Additionally, it requires accessibility to program activities through effective communication methods and the provision of necessary auxiliary aids.

In our own context, advancing inclusivity in the arts requires meaningful involvement of the lead government agency for PWDs in discussions within the creative industry. While the Philippine Creative Industries Development Act (Republic Act No. 11904) represents a significant milestone for creative industries, we deem it crucial to expand the ex officio membership of the Philippine Creative Industries Council to include the National Council on Disability Affairs. Presently, there are ten (10) ex officio members: Secretaries of the Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Education, Department of Science and Technology, National Economic and Development Authority, Department of Tourism, Department of Information and Communications Technology, Department of the Interior and Local Government; Chairpersons of the Commission on Higher Education and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts; and the Director General of the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines.

The expansion would facilitate greater awareness of the persistent barriers faced by PWD artists, creators, administrators, audiences, and visitors, aligning with the Council's mandate to promote creative industries.

¹ Pasikowska-Schnass, M. (2019, February 12). *Briefing: cultural life for people with disabilities*. European Parliament. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI\(2019\)644200](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI(2019)644200)

² Rephrased articulation of Article 5 of the 2001 UNESCO Declaration on Cultural Diversity cited in Raynor, O., & Stoffmacher, B. (n.d.). *State of the Arts: The Inclusion of Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities in the Arts Community*. ICI Webpub System. <https://publications.ici.umn.edu/impact/34-2/state-of-the-arts-inclusion>

³ Article 15-2 of Act No. 15638 (2018). Retrieved from: https://elaw.klri.re.kr/eng_mobile/viewer.do?hseq=48704&type=part&key=17

⁴ Bienvenu, B. M. (2019, May 29). *Celebrating 40 Years of Promoting Accessibility in the Arts*. National Endowment for the Arts. <https://www.arts.gov/stories/blog/2019/celebrating-40-years-promoting-accessibility-arts>

Given these considerations, we earnestly request the immediate passage of this bill.



REP. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA
2nd District of Cavite



REP. BRYAN B. REVILLA
AGIMAT Partylist



REP. RAMON JOLO REVILLA III
1st District of Cavite

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

Section 1. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 11904, otherwise known as the "Philippine Creative Industries Development Act," is hereby amended by providing an additional subsection, to read as follows:

"Section 4. Creation of the Philippine Creative Industries Development Council. — x x x

"The Council shall be composed of nineteen (19) members: [ten (10)] **ELEVEN (11)** ex officio members and nine (9) regular members from the private sector.

"(a) The [ten (10)] **ELEVEN (11)** members who shall be ex officio members of the Council are:

"x x x

"(11) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR DISABILITY AFFAIRS (NCDA).

"x x x."

Section 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,