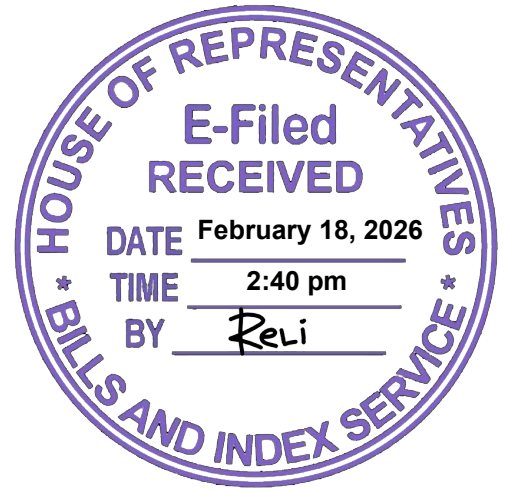


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7865



Introduced by **HON. BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FINANCIAL GRANTS PROGRAM FOR EMERGING
FILIPINO ARTISTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 19 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11904, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT ACT, AND TO PROVIDE FUNDS
THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution provides that arts and letters shall enjoy the patronage of the State¹ and that the State shall encourage and support researches and studies on the arts and culture.² This constitutional mandate recognizes the vital role of artists in shaping our country's identity and sharing our culture.

Indeed, the Philippines has an abundance of talented artists, from renowned painters, digital animators, musicians, composers, theater actors, film directors and producers, sculptors, and many others. Many Filipino artists have gained international recognition. Just last January, Filipino-Canadian artist Marigold Santos won the ART SG Futures Prize in Singapore.³ Meanwhile, the late actress Jaclyn Jose was the first Southeast Asian to win Best Actress at the Cannes Film Festival.⁴ Filipino singers, such as Sofronio Vasquez, have likewise showcased their talents on the global stage

¹ 1987 CONST. Article XIV, Sec. 15.

² 1987 CONST. Article XIV, Sec. 18.

³ <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/artandculture/974459/filipino-artist-marigold-santos-bags-major-prize-at-art-sg-for-aswang-works/story/>

⁴ <https://www.abs-cbn.com/entertainment/showbiz/celebrities/2025/6/22/here-are-some-notable-filipino-artists-who-won-international-acting-awards-2105>

and won in international singing competitions.⁵

Filipino talent is undeniable. In recognition of this, the government has made strides in supporting the creative industries in the country through the enactment of the *Law Creating the National Commission for Culture and the Arts*, and more recently, the *Philippine Creative Industries Development Act*. Despite these measures, however, Filipino artists continue to face multiple difficulties. Artists, particularly at the start of their careers, often struggle to sustain their art due to financial constraints, lack of opportunities, and limited institutional support. Art materials, tools and equipment, studio spaces, and other production costs are expensive, making it difficult for promising artists to pursue their craft and build their portfolios even further.

One country that has successfully incentivized the growth of its arts sector is South Korea, now globally known for its flourishing creative industries, particularly in music and film. In 2025, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism's budget was 7 trillion won, and the largest portion of the budget, at 2.38 trillion won, will be allocated to the culture and arts sector.⁶ Among South Korea's programs is the *Artists Get Ready Grants*, which supports artists in the "preparatory stage of artistic activities."⁷ One track in this program is the Emerging Artist Track, which provides newly certified artists with a one-time grant of 2 million won to help them begin their professional careers. In 2024 alone, 3,000 artists received financial assistance under this track.

In the Philippines, the NCCA administers the Competitive Arts Program, funded by the National Endowment Fund for Culture and the Arts. However, this program generally requires applicants to submit a comprehensive curriculum vitae and established track record, making it less accessible to artists who are only starting out.⁸

This measure therefore aims to strengthen our current laws and programs, and take inspiration from programs abroad that have been effective in stimulating the arts industry. This measure seeks to use a portion of the Creative Industry Development Fund to establish a grants program for emerging Filipino artists, including those with no prior professional experience in their chosen field but can demonstrate their artistic potential or aptitude, with priority given to applicants who come from households whose income falls below the poverty threshold. This measure will show our dedication to further honing our home-grown talents.

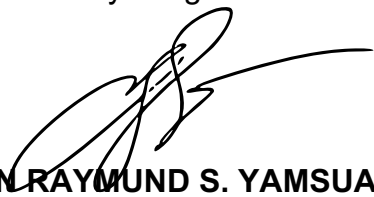
⁵<https://www.gmanetwork.com/entertainment/photos/pinoy-singers-who-won-in-international-singing-contests/26171/358388/>

⁶<https://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/news/2024-12-11/national/politics/Culture-Ministry-finalizes-2025-budget-to-turn-Korea-into-cultural-powerhouse-/2198088;>
<https://cm.asiae.co.kr/en/article/2024121113281061341#:~:text=ABCDEFGF-,Ministry%20of%20Culture's%20Budget%20for%20Next%20Year%20Confirmed%20at%207.0672,Be coming%20a%20'Global%20Cultural%20Power'>

⁷ https://www.kawf.kr/files/report_2024_eng.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

⁸ <https://ncca.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Annex-B-NCCA-Accreditation-Guidelines.pdf>

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



BRIAN RAYMUND S. YAMSUAN
Representative
2nd District of Parañaque

Republic of the Philippines
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REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11904, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT ACT, AND TO PROVIDE FUNDS
THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Grants for Emerging Artists Act”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy of the State to give priority to and support the study of arts and culture. The State recognizes that emerging artists may face significant economic barriers to the initial stages of their professional careers. To this end, the State shall prioritize the arts industry by establishing a financial grants program to support emerging artists and encourage the development of new artistic voices throughout the country.

SECTION 3. Section 19 of Republic Act No. 11904, otherwise known as the Philippine Creative Industries Development Act, is hereby amended to read as follows:

SECTION 19. The Creative Industry Development Fund. — There is hereby established a Special Account in the General Fund with the National Treasury to be called the Creative Industry Development Fund, herein referred to as the Fund. The purpose of the Fund is for research and development, trade promotion, human resource development in the creative industry, and for the welfare of artists, workers and other stakeholders through business support

organizations and creative workers associations. The Fund shall be capitalized and administered by the Council in accordance with existing government budgeting, accounting and auditing rules and regulations. The Fund shall be sourced from **ALLOCATIONS IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT**, the loans, contributions, grants, bequests, gifts, and donations, whether from local or foreign sources: Provided, That acceptance of grants, bequests, contributions and donations from foreign governments shall be subject to the approval of the President upon recommendation of the DFA Secretary: Provided, further, That such grants, bequests, contributions, and donations shall be deductible for income tax purposes in accordance with the provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

PROVIDED, THAT A PORTION OF THE FUND SHALL BE USED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A GRANTS PROGRAM FOR EMERGING ARTISTS WHO ARE FILIPINO CITIZENS, WHICH SHALL PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO QUALIFIED ARTISTS AT THE BEGINNING OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL CAREERS. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ACT, EMERGING ARTISTS INCLUDE ARTISTS WITH NO PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN THEIR CHOSEN ARTISTIC FIELDS BUT WHO CAN DEMONSTRATE ARTISTIC POTENTIAL OR APTITUDE THROUGH SAMPLE WORKS, PORTFOLIOS AND OTHER RELEVANT EVIDENCE AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE COUNCIL. PROVIDED, THAT THE COUNCIL SHALL ISSUE THE NECESSARY GUIDELINES FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROGRAM. PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT PRIORITY SHALL BE GIVEN TO APPLICANTS WHO COME FROM HOUSEHOLDS WHOSE INCOME FALLS BELOW THE POVERTY THRESHOLD AS DEFINED BY THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The program of expenditure for the programs, projects, and activities to be funded by the Fund shall be itemized on a project-to-project basis and submitted annually to Congress. In the identification and prioritization of specific programs, projects, and activities, the Council shall conduct prior consultation with the representatives of the creative industry.

SECTION 4. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the immediate implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, proclamations, or administrative orders, rules or regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,