

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6165

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to establish a grant program to increase job opportunities for artists and creative professionals, improve the quality and availability of arts facilities and arts-related programming, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CAREY, and Ms. PINGREE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to establish a grant program to increase job opportunities for artists and creative professionals, improve the quality and availability of arts facilities and arts-related programming, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Capital, Repairs, and
3 Employment for Art Talent to Improve Visibility Every-
4 where Act of 2025” or the “CREATIVE Act of 2025”.

5 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR KEEPING ARTISTS ON THE JOB.**

6 Title II of the Public Works and Economic Develop-
7 ment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et seq.) is amended
8 by adding at the end the following:

9 **“SEC. 223. GRANTS FOR KEEPING ARTISTS ON THE JOB.**

10 “(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall
11 carry out a program, to be known as the ‘Creative Econ-
12 omy Revitalization and Workforce Development Program’,
13 under which the Secretary awards grants to eligible enti-
14 ties, on a competitive basis, as follows:

15 “(1) HIRING AND PRODUCTION GRANTS.—The
16 Secretary may award a grant to an eligible entity to
17 hire or compensate professional performers, artists,
18 and related or supporting professional personnel and
19 staff for productions, projects, performances, exhibi-
20 tions, workshops, or programs. A grant under this
21 paragraph shall be in an amount that is not more
22 than \$5,000,000 and shall remain available for ex-
23 penditure by the eligible entity for a period of 5
24 years from the date on which the grant is disbursed
25 to such entity.

1 “(2) CONSTRUCTION AND ACQUISITION
2 GRANTS.—The Secretary may award a grant to an
3 eligible entity to construct or acquire a facility to
4 house arts productions, projects, performances, exhi-
5 bitions, workshops, or programs. A grant under this
6 paragraph shall be in an amount that is not more
7 than \$3,000,000, shall be accompanied by a commit-
8 ment from the eligible entity to provide full-time,
9 gainful employment to professional performers, writ-
10 ers, artists, and related or supporting professional
11 personnel upon completion of the grant period and
12 projects fully or partially funded by the grant, and
13 shall remain available for expenditure by the eligible
14 entity for a period of 5 years from the date on which
15 the grant is disbursed to such entity.

16 “(3) MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT
17 GRANTS.—The Secretary may award a grant to an
18 eligible entity to improve, repair, or maintain an ex-
19 isting facility housing arts productions, projects, per-
20 formances, exhibitions, workshops, or programs. A
21 grant under this paragraph shall be in an amount
22 that is not more than \$3,000,000, shall be accom-
23 panied by a commitment from the eligible entity to
24 provide gainful employment to professional per-
25 formers and related or supporting professional per-

1 sonnel during and upon completion of the grant pe-
2 riod and projects fully or partially funded by the
3 grant, and shall remain available for expenditure by
4 the eligible entity for a period of 3 years from the
5 date on which the grant is disbursed to such entity.

6 “(b) PROHIBITION ON MULTIPLE AWARDS.—An eli-
7 gible entity may not receive more than 1 grant under sub-
8 section (a).

9 “(c) APPLICATION.—To be considered for a grant
10 under this section, an eligible entity shall submit an appli-
11 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
12 accompanied by such information as the Secretary may
13 require. At a minimum each application shall include the
14 following:

15 “(1) The type of grant for which the entity is
16 applying from among the grant types described in
17 paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (a).

18 “(2) A description of the specific purposes for
19 which the entity proposes to use the grant, includ-
20 ing, as applicable—

21 “(A) examples of productions, projects,
22 performances, exhibitions, workshops, or pro-
23 grams that may be—

24 “(i) housed at a facility supported by
25 the grant; or

1 “(ii) produced by employing profes-
2 sional performers and related or sup-
3 porting professional personnel artists or
4 staff members supported or employed by
5 the grant; and

6 “(B) the perceived benefits that such pro-
7 ductions, projects, performances, exhibitions,
8 workshops, or programs provide to professional
9 performers and related or supporting profes-
10 sional personnel, and the communities served by
11 the eligible entity.

12 “(3) A description of the level of access to arts
13 facilities and programming in the communities
14 served by the eligible entity and, if applicable, identi-
15 fication of any disparities or gaps in such access.

16 “(4) A explanation of how the entity conducted,
17 or intends to conduct, outreach and acquire input
18 from the community in which the grant funds will
19 be used, including input from, low-income individ-
20 uals, individuals with disabilities, and other under-
21 represented individuals in such community that are
22 underrepresented in the creative sector, as well as
23 arts labor organizations.

24 “(5) A description of any input received as a
25 result of the outreach under paragraph (4).

1 “(6) A description of the steps the board or
2 other appropriate overseeing body of such eligible
3 entity has taken to ensure that governance of the or-
4 ganization includes representation from individuals
5 described in paragraph (4).

6 “(7) A description of—

7 “(A) the level of community need for the
8 activities proposed to be carried out with grant
9 funds; and

10 “(B) the extent to which such activities
11 will be supported by additional funds from the
12 community and other sources.

13 “(8) If applicable, a comprehensive plan de-
14 scribing how the eligible entity will continue to oper-
15 ate any facility supported by the grant after the
16 grant funds have been expended, including how the
17 eligible entity will continue employing or facilitating
18 employment for professional performers, writers, art-
19 ists, and related or supporting professional per-
20 sonnel.

21 “(9) An attestation that the eligible entity will
22 not abrogate existing collective bargaining agree-
23 ments for the entire duration of the grant period.

24 “(10) An attestation that the eligible entity re-
25 ceiving a grant will abide by the labor standards of

1 professional performers and personnel and guarantee
2 to provide healthy and safe working conditions under
3 section 5(m) of the National Foundation on the Arts
4 and the Humanities Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
5 954(m)).

6 “(11) An attestation that the eligible entity re-
7 ceiving a grant will provide or facilitate gainful em-
8 ployment for professional performers and related or
9 supporting professional personnel.

10 “(12) Any other information or assurances the
11 Secretary determines appropriate.

12 “(d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
13 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities
14 that meet 1 or more of the following criteria (with higher
15 priority given to eligible entities that meet more than 1
16 such criteria):

17 “(1) The eligible entity is located in a commu-
18 nity with limited access to high-quality arts produc-
19 tions, projects, performances, exhibitions, or pro-
20 grams, which may be indicated by—

21 “(A) the community having 1 or fewer fa-
22 cilities for hosting arts programming;

23 “(B) the presence of an arts facility in the
24 community that is in state of disrepair, a phys-
25 ical state that is not conducive to regularly host

1 upgrades necessary for fully accessible work-
2 places for professional performers and related
3 or supporting professional personnel with dis-
4 abilities; or

5 “(C) the presence of an arts facility in the
6 community that has canceled, paused, or re-
7 duced the length of a production season during
8 any of the 3 years preceding the grant applica-
9 tion.

10 “(2) The eligible entity proposes to use the
11 grant to employ professional performers and related
12 or supporting professional personnel and to expand
13 arts productions, projects, performances, exhibitions,
14 workshops, or programs from linguistically and cul-
15 turally diverse populations who are considered eth-
16 nic, cultural, religious, or linguistic minorities and
17 whose art is underrepresented in popular culture.

18 “(3) The eligible entity demonstrates no-fault
19 financial hardship, limited support from State and
20 local government sources, or a level of income insuf-
21 ficient to self-fund the activities for which the grant
22 is sought.

23 “(4) The eligible entity proposes to use the
24 grant to employ professional performers and related
25 or supporting professional personnel and to host or

1 produce arts productions, projects, performances, ex-
2 hibitions, or programs that, if applicable, provide in-
3 sight and perspective on current or historical events
4 or local or regional economic issues.

5 “(5) The eligible entity is not a recipient of an-
6 other grant under this title and the entity has not
7 previously received a grant under this title.

8 “(6) The eligible entity proposes to use the
9 grant to improve access to arts productions,
10 projects, performances, exhibitions, or programs for
11 people with disabilities, or to hire professional per-
12 formers and other related or supporting professional
13 personnel.

14 “(7) The eligible entity is located in a rural
15 community.

16 “(8) The eligible entity provides individual art-
17 ists and groups of artists with the opportunity to
18 display or produce projects, performances, exhibi-
19 tions, workshops, or programs.

20 “(9) The eligible entity proposes to use the
21 grant for a purpose that furthers arts education in
22 the community in which such funds will be used.

23 “(e) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—An eligible en-
24 tity that receives a grant under this section may use the
25 grant only to supplement, and not to supplant, funds made

1 available from non-Federal sources to carry out the activi-
2 ties supported by such grant.

3 “(f) ACCOUNTABILITY.—The Secretary shall regu-
4 larly review the activities of eligible entities receiving
5 grants under this section to ensure that such entities are
6 using the grant for the purposes for which it was provided
7 and are otherwise in compliance with the requirements of
8 this section.

9 “(g) TREATMENT OF UNEXPENDED FUNDS.—Funds
10 received by an eligible entity under subsection (a) that are
11 not expended within the allowable period specified in such
12 subsection shall be returned to Secretary unless the Sec-
13 retary makes a written determination that the entity may
14 continue to expend the funds after the expiration of such
15 period.

16 “(h) REPORTS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—On an annual basis during
18 each year of the grant period, an eligible entity that
19 receives a grant under this section shall submit to
20 the Secretary a report that includes a description of
21 the following:

22 “(A) How the grant funds were used in the
23 year covered by the report.

24 “(B) The effects, in the immediate term
25 and over the remaining period of the grant, of

1 “(B) The effects, in the immediate term
2 and over the remaining period of the grant, of
3 the activities supported by the grant with re-
4 spect to—

5 “(i) increasing access to arts facilities
6 and programming within the community
7 served by the eligible entity;

8 “(ii) reducing disparities in access to
9 such facilities and programming in such
10 communities; and

11 “(iii) providing or facilitating full-time
12 gainful employment for professional per-
13 formers and related or supporting profes-
14 sional personnel.

15 “(C) To the extent applicable, how the
16 grant has or will be used to—

17 “(i) increase work opportunities for
18 professional performers and related or sup-
19 porting professional personnel;

20 “(ii) improve an existing facility’s
21 ability to host or produce high-quality arts
22 productions, projects, performances, exhibi-
23 tions, or programs;

24 “(iii) contribute to the construction or
25 acquisition of a facility to host or produce

1 high-quality arts productions, projects, per-
2 formances, exhibitions, or programs, and if
3 acquisition or construction of such facility
4 is complete, how the facility has been able
5 to host or assist in the production of such
6 programming;

7 “(iv) support increasing the number
8 of high-quality arts productions, projects,
9 performances, exhibitions, workshops, or
10 programs from linguistically and culturally
11 diverse populations who are considered eth-
12 nic, cultural, religious, or linguistic minori-
13 ties and whose art is underrepresented in
14 popular culture; and

15 “(v) improve access to arts produc-
16 tions, projects, performances, exhibitions,
17 or programs for artists with disabilities
18 and other people with disabilities or to im-
19 prove an eligible entity’s ability to employ
20 professional performers and related or sup-
21 porting professional personnel with disabil-
22 ities.

23 “(2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Not later than
24 180 days after receiving a report under paragraph
25 (1), the Secretary shall make the report available on

1 “(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 “(1) ARTS LABOR ORGANIZATION.—The term
3 ‘arts labor organization’ means an organization
4 which is exempt from tax under section 501(c)(5) of
5 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

6 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
7 tity’ means—

8 “(A) a local arts agency;

9 “(B) a museum; or

10 “(C) any other nonprofit arts organization,
11 including literary arts organizations, performing
12 arts organizations, and professional nonprofit
13 theaters, that is described in section 501(c)(3)
14 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and ex-
15 empt from taxation under section 501(a) of
16 such Code.

17 “(3) MUSEUM.—The term ‘museum’ has the
18 meaning given that term in section 273(1) of the
19 Museum Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9172(1)).

20 “(4) PROFESSIONAL NONPROFIT THEATER.—
21 The term ‘professional nonprofit theater’ means a
22 nonprofit arts organization that is described in sec-
23 tion 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
24 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of
25 such Code that—

1 “(A) produces live choral, dance, musical,
2 theatrical, operatic, orchestral, symphonic, or
3 variety performances;

4 “(B) compensates all professional per-
5 formers and related or supporting professional
6 personnel at no less than the prevailing min-
7 imum compensation under 20 U.S.C. 954(m);

8 “(C) hosts events that are produced and
9 managed by paid employees and not volunteers;

10 “(D) has a minimum of a 3-year history of
11 programming prior to applying for a grant
12 under this section;

13 “(E) has not violated any laws enforced by
14 the Department of Labor, Equal Employment
15 Opportunity Commission, National Labor Rela-
16 tions Board, or equivalent State agencies in the
17 3 years prior to applying for a grant under this
18 section; and

19 “(F) is not engaged in a strike, lockout, or
20 other labor dispute at the time of applying for
21 a grant under this section.

22 “(5) RURAL COMMUNITY.—The term ‘rural
23 community’ means a community in an area that is
24 not designated by the Bureau of the Census as an
25 urbanized area or urban cluster.

1 “(6) RELATED OR SUPPORTING PROFESSIONAL
2 PERSONNEL.—The term ‘related or supporting pro-
3 fessional personnel’ means any staff member at an
4 eligible entity that performs specialized work to
5 produce arts productions, projects, performances, ex-
6 hibitions, or programs at that entity.

7 “(7) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
8 the Secretary of Commerce.

9 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
11 appropriated to carry out this section \$700,000,000
12 for each of the fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

13 “(2) RESERVATIONS.—From the amount appro-
14 priated under paragraph for each fiscal year, the
15 Secretary—

16 “(A) shall reserve up to 25 percent to
17 make grants under this section to eligible enti-
18 ties located in rural communities; and

19 “(B) may reserve—

20 “(i) not more than 30 percent to pro-
21 vide Maintenance and Improvement
22 Grants;

23 “(ii) not more than 1 percent to pro-
24 vide technical assistance to eligible entities

1 that are receiving grants under this sec-
2 tion; and

3 “(ii) not more than 0.5 percent to en-
4 sure the Economic Development Adminis-
5 tration has sufficient personnel to carry
6 out the program under this section.

7 “(3) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds made
8 available by this Act may be used for any activity
9 that is subject to the reporting requirements set
10 forth in section 203(a) of the Labor-Management
11 Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 (29 U.S.C.
12 433(a)).”.

○