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

RECEIVED BY:

SENATE

S.B. No. 2096

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BAGUIO CITY HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution, under Article XIV, Section 14, mandates that, "The State shall 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." Section 17 of the same Article provides that, "The State shall recognize, respect, and protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions, and institutions. It shall consider these rights in the formulation of national plans and policies."

The Constitution acknowledges the importance of culture and the arts in fostering patriotism and nationalism, advancing social change, and advancing complete human liberty and development. Culture and the arts are crucial to the holistic development of our society. Hence, it is important to teach young people the importance of the arts, provide them with a platform for their creative endeavors, and introduce to them the career opportunities in the arts and creative industries.

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (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 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), there are currently 56 local institutions directly devoted to Baguio's creative sector, totaling a gross receipt of USS1, 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.

The City of Baguio is well recognized for its robust tourism, which is led by the local creative sector, but it also has a number of technology parks and promotes an innovative and modern culture. Young Filipinos can explore and nurture their interest

for the arts in this city because it is a hub for academic, technological, and cultural activities in Northern Luzon. On 31 October 2017, Baguio City became the first Philippine city to be designated by UNESCO as a Creative City for Crafts and Folks Arts. It is also the home of the National Artists, namely Benedicto Cabrera, also known as BenCab, and Eric Oteyza de Guia, also known as Kidlat Tahimik.

Hence, this bill seeks to establish the Baguio City High School for the Arts. With this the youth of Baguio and even those from nearby communities will have access to education where their aptitude for the arts and culture can be properly developed with a conducive environment, resources, and curriculum. It is envisioned that from the ranks of the future graduates of the proposed high school will rise the next National Artists who will proudly showcase the Filipino culture and talent to the international stage.

In view of the foregoing, the expeditious passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

TMEE R. MARCOS



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

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

To 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. Establishment of the Baguio City High School for the Arts. — There is hereby established in the City of Baguio a specialized public high school that shall offer arts-focused education, to be known as the Baguio City High School for the Arts, herein 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 Cordillera Administrative Region Regional Office and Schools Division Office of Baguio City.

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- **SEC. 3.** *Mandate.* The School shall implement a general secondary education, as prescribed by Republic Act No. 10533, or the "Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013", to students with considerable potential in the arts. The school curriculum shall have significant emphasis on developing the talent, skill, and exceptional giftedness of students, thereby nurturing potential artists while preserving and promoting Filipino heritage.
- SEC. 4. Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern. The organizational structure and staffing pattern of the School shall be prescribed by the DepEd, subject to the approval of the 31 Department of Budget and Management (DBM).
- **SEC. 5.** Authority to Receive Donations and Grants. The School's Principal may receive grants, bequest, endowments, donations and contributions made to the School, to be used actually, directly and exclusively by the School, subject to compliance with existing laws, rules and regulations.
- **SEC. 6.** Development Plan and Organizational Structure. Within one hundred twenty (120) days after the approval of this Act, the School shall accomplish the following:
- (a) Submit a five-year development plan, including its corresponding budgetary program to the DepEd for endorsement to the DBM; and
- (b) Set up its organizational, administrative, and academic structure, subject to the qualification standards set by the DepEd.
- SEC. 7. Appropriations. The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the DepEd in the annual General Appropriations Act.
- **SEC. 8.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act, the DepEd shall, in coordination with the NCCA, CCP, and the local government of the City of Baguio, promulgate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act.
- SEC. 9. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,