

SENATE
P.S. Res. No. 378

20 MAY -4/ ATO :35/

RECEIVED

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REVITALIZATION OF THE
CULTURAL AND CREATIVES INDUSTRY IN THE NEW NORMAL

1 WHEREAS, on 9 March, through Proclamation No. 922, President Rodrigo
2 Duterte declared a state of public health emergency after the Department of Health
3 confirmed local transmission of COVID-19 in the Philippines;

4 WHEREAS, on March 17, President Duterte placed the entire island of Luzon
5 under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in an effort to prevent further
6 contagion and reduce the rate of infection;

7 WHEREAS, the ECQ brought about by the pandemic caused the suspension,
8 cancellation, and/or postponement of tapings of motion pictures, tv shows and other
9 programs, staged performances, concerts, gigs, workshops and art classes;

10 WHEREAS, workers in the cultural and creatives industry were among those
11 displaced by the ECQ as most of them are under a no work-no pay scheme and have
12 no option to work from home;

13 WHEREAS, 2017 Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) data listed the P7.22-
14 billion-worth motion picture, video, and television program sector as composed of 170
15 establishments and employs 4,606 individuals, while the creative, arts, and
16 entertainment sector provides work for 2,012 individuals;

17 WHEREAS, the 2017 data from the PSA further showed that the average
18 monthly income of freelancers, audio-visual workers, film crews, technicians, and
19 other support staff in the movie and television sector is around P32,500, while artists,

1 sculptors, painters, writers, stage managers, set carpenters and other staff in the arts
2 sector which includes theater and orchestra earn an average of P12,495 per month;

3 WHEREAS, #CreativeAidPH, a survey conducted by the Nayong Pilipino
4 Foundation revealed that COVID-19 caused the in the creative, arts, and
5 entertainment sector a mean income loss of P98,209 per worker since January, and
6 an average projected income loss of P171,050 per worker in the coming months;

7 WHEREAS, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts' (NCCA) rolled out
8 a one-time NCCA-DOLE TUPAD Assistance Program from its P4-million quick response
9 fund which gave P5,000 each to 1,000 artists and cultural workers but was criticized
10 to be "demeaning, unrealistic in its deadlines, and problematic in its process of
11 consultation and implementation"¹;

12 WHEREAS, the NCCA approved a supplemental P63.8 million budget for an
13 assistance fund for arts and culture workers which will have a P6.4 million component
14 for a cash assistance program for an additional 1,250 beneficiaries from the NCCA-
15 TUPAD registry, and those endorsed by the Artists Welfare of the Philippines, Inc. and
16 Film Academy of the Philippines, and a P57.4 million component which will be allocated
17 for committee-driven grants, subsidy programs, or online projects and activities
18 relevant to each committee's mandate and/or an option to continue with the cash
19 assistance program which provides a maximum of P5,000 (net of tax) to artists and
20 cultural workers²;

21 WHEREAS, the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) also rolled
22 out the DEAR Action! Program, which aims to provide a one-time financial assistance
23 of P8,000 to low-income audio-visual content workers such as on-camera performers,
24 production staff, and technical crews who are not recipients of other assistance from
25 the government and who lost at least five work days or five projects due to the
26 declaration of ECQ;

27 WHEREAS, significant government assistance to the industry and its workers
28 should be provided to help the displaced workers tide over the no-work, no-pay period

¹ <https://www.interaksyon.com/trends-spotlights/2020/04/21/166766/ncca-urged-give-aid-and-relief-filipino-creatives-amid-covid-19-quarantine/>

² <https://www.bworldonline.com/ncca-provides-p63-8-m-pandemic-fund-for-artists/>

1 and to be able to restart and revitalize the creative and arts industry in the post-
2 pandemic era;

3 WHEREAS, it is imperative to facilitate the revival of the cultural and creative
4 industry not only for its economic contribution but also for its role in the revitalization
5 of the nation's psyche as the country tries to recover from a pandemic;

6 WHEREAS, the cultural and creatives industry must be included in any economic
7 stimulus program or package to be granted by the government commensurate with
8 the industry's average economic contribution;

9 WHEREAS, The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), in coordination
10 with the NCAA, FDCP, the Directors' Guild of the Philippines, Inc., and other
11 organizations of workers in the creatives and cultural industry, should craft guidelines
12 on how to go about creating and staging cultural and creative outputs and other
13 performances while adhering to social distancing and health protocols;

14 WHEREAS, artists should also be assisted by the government to transition to
15 possible alternative careers should they want to, such as, but not limited to, being
16 mentors to tutorial or remedial art classes integrated with the Department of Education
17 (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED) curricula, and serving as
18 trainers in skills development programs and ladderized education under Technical
19 Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and in coordination with the
20 NCCA;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, as it is hereby resolved,
22 to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the revitalization of the cultural and
23 creatives industry in the New Normal.

Adopted,


GRACE POE