

1 [Urging the California State Legislature to Pass Assembly Bill 580]

2  
3 **Resolution urging the California State Legislature to pass Assembly Bill 580, to restore**  
4 **\$75 million in annual funding to the California Arts Council.**

5  
6 WHEREAS, California Governor Edmund G. Brown created the California Arts Council  
7 (CAC) in 1975 to encourage public participation in the arts; help build strong arts  
8 organizations to assist with the professional development of arts leaders; promote awareness  
9 of the value of the arts and directly fund art programs in California’s communities, and

10 WHEREAS, The CAC program was one of the first arts funding agencies in the United  
11 States of America that placed a heavy emphasis on funding artists and arts organizations that  
12 represented underserved, low-income and people of color, rural and inner-city populations  
13 and for arts and social change, and

14 WHEREAS, In 2003, the State budget allocation of the CAC was cut to approximately  
15 three cents per California resident—the lowest State funding level of all the 50 United States  
16 resulting in a cumulative loss to California’s artists and non-profit arts industry of over \$300  
17 million during the last decade, and

18 WHEREAS, These cuts had catastrophic effects on the State’s Artist-in-School’s  
19 programs, touring and presenting programs and many other programs initiatives critical to the  
20 State’s cultural health and vitality, and

21 WHEREAS, The burden of the cuts disproportionately impacted artists and arts  
22 organizations that represented underserved, low-income and people of color, rural and inner-  
23 city populations and for arts and social change, and

24  
25

1           WHEREAS, It is recognized and studies have proved that for every dollar invested in  
2 the arts, \$7 are generated in the local economy including between \$2.50 and \$3 being directly  
3 recouped by California State and Municipal treasuries, and

4           WHEREAS, The non-profit arts-related sector statewide supports 91,000 arts-related  
5 businesses and 500,891 jobs for people in California, non-profit arts specifically generate \$9.4  
6 billion in total economic impact and 7.6 % of total employment in California, and

7           WHEREAS, Additionally, the arts spur cultural tourism with over 6,000,000 arts tourists  
8 per year to California, revitalize depressed neighborhoods, attract creative workers and  
9 industries, provide a creative infrastructure for innovation and imagination, serve as a crucial  
10 partner to California's entertainment industry, unite our communities, celebrating diversity and  
11 building bridges of tolerance and understanding and shape California's profile as a global  
12 focal point for culture and creativity; now, therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors unanimously supports Assembly Bill 580  
14 that will restore \$75 million in annual funding to the CAC for the purpose of making grants to  
15 artists and arts organizations that serve low-income and people of color, rural and inner-city  
16 populations and for arts and social change.

17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25