

Georgia Council for the Arts*

§ 50-12-20. Legislative findings and declaration of public policy

The General Assembly finds that the general welfare of the people of this state will be promoted by giving recognition to the arts as a vital part of our culture and heritage and economic development. The arts industry fuels cultural heritage tourism, the fastest growing segment of tourism; is a catalyst for community revitalization, boosting local economies; fuels arts education in our schools, which prepares students to be entrepreneurial, critical thinkers; and spurs innovation, helping industries to become more competitive in a global marketplace. The General Assembly, therefore, declares it to be the public policy of this state to encourage the development of the arts.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1976, p. 748, § 1; Ga. L. 1986, p. 174, § 2; Ga. L. 2013, p. 1042, § 1/HB 338.

§ 50-12-21. Creation of council

There is created an arts council to be known as the "Georgia Council for the Arts," hereinafter referred to as the council. The council is created as an advisory body.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1976, p. 748, § 2; Ga. L. 1986, p. 174, § 2; Ga. L. 2013, p. 1042, § 2/HB 338.

§ 50-12-22. Appointment of members; terms; vacancies; expenses; removal; chairperson; meetings

(a) The council shall consist of nine members who shall be appointed by the Governor. Councilmembers shall serve two three-year terms. The Governor shall fill any vacancies for unexpired terms. In addition to the nine members appointed by the Governor pursuant to this subsection, the Governor shall appoint two ex officio members from the General Assembly.

(b) With regards to the composition of the council:

(1) The council shall be broadly representative of the major fields of the arts and related creative industries;

(2) The council should be a balanced representation of the entire state, accounting for, but not limited to, minority and ethnic groups, gender diversity, geographic diversity, large and small organizations, and the public and private sectors;

(3) Councilmembers shall be appointed from among private citizens who are widely known for their competence and experience in connection with the arts and related creative industries, as well as their knowledge of community and state interests; and

(4) Consideration shall be given to recommendations for membership made by persons or organizations involved in civic, educational, business, labor, professional, cultural, ethnic, and performing and creative arts fields, as well as those with knowledge of community and state interests.

(c) Members shall be entitled to reimbursement for expenses incurred in the work of the council when authorized in advance by the commissioner of economic development.

(d) Active and continuing participation by members of the council is needed. Any member who fails to attend three regularly scheduled, consecutive meetings may be removed by the council.

(e) A chairperson shall be appointed annually by the Governor for a term ending on June 30 of the year following such appointment. The chairperson shall be a person widely recognized for his or her knowledge, experience, and interest in the arts industry, as well as his or her knowledge of community and state interests.

(f) The council shall meet upon the call of the chairperson, but not less often than twice during each fiscal year. A majority of the members appointed to the council shall constitute a quorum.
HISTORY: Ga. L. 1976, p. 748, § 3; Ga. L. 1979, p. 388, § 1; Ga. L. 1986, p. 174, § 2; Ga. L. 1990, p. 1903, § 12; Ga. L. 2011, p. 514, § 1/ HB 264; Ga. L. 2013, p. 1042, § 3/ HB 338.

§ 50-12-23. Powers and duties generally

The council shall advise the Governor through the Department of Economic Development concerning methods and programs to:

(1) Stimulate and encourage the study and development of the arts as well as public interest and participation therein;

(2) Encourage public interest in the cultural heritage of this state;

(3) Expand this state's cultural resources;

(4) Encourage and assist freedom of artistic expression essential for the well-being of the arts;

(5) Assist the communities and organizations within this state in originating and creating their own cultural and artistic programs;

(6) Advance the arts in education, tourism, community development, and economic development in Georgia;

(7) Assist local governments and communities within this state to plan, build, and connect the arts to their tourism, community, and economic development initiatives;

(8) Establish standards and procedures and advisory committees as necessary to support the director and staff in furthering the objectives of the council's programs; and

(9) Seek and receive the views of all levels of government and the private and nonprofit sectors with respect to state programs and policies for the promotion and assistance of the arts industry.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1976, p. 748, § 4; Ga. L. 1986, p. 174, § 2; Ga. L. 2011, p. 514, § 2/ HB 264; Ga. L. 2013, p. 1042, § 4/ HB 338.

§ 50-12-24. Annual report

The council shall submit an annual report to the Governor and to the commissioner of economic development concerning the appropriate methods to encourage participation in and appreciation of the arts in order to meet the legitimate needs and aspirations of persons in all parts of this state.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1976, p. 748, § 5; Ga. L. 1986, p. 174, § 2; Ga. L. 2011, p. 514, § 3/HB 264.

§ 50-12-25. Powers and authority of Department of Economic Development as to council

The Department of Economic Development shall have the powers and authority necessary to carry out the purposes established by this article, including, but not limited to, the powers:

- (1) To establish overall policy for grant awards, evaluations, and programs recommended by the council;
- (2) To hold hearings, make and sign any agreements, and do and perform any acts which may be necessary, desirable, or proper to carry out the purposes of this article;
- (3) To request from any department, division, board, bureau, commission, or other agency of the state such reasonable assistance and data as will enable it properly to carry out its powers and duties;
- (4) To accept, on behalf of the state, any federal funds granted by act of Congress or by executive order for all or any of the purposes of this article; and, upon appropriation by the General Assembly, to expend such funds for the purposes set forth in the appropriations Act;
- (5) To accept any grants, gifts, donations, or bequests for all or any of the purposes of this article;
- (6) To propose methods to encourage private initiative in the arts; and
- (7) To advise and consult with the Governor; the General Assembly; national foundations; and other local, state, and federal departments and agencies on methods to coordinate and assist existing resources and facilities, with the purpose of fostering artistic and cultural endeavors generally.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1976, p. 748, § 6; Ga. L. 1986, p. 174, § 2; Ga. L. 1992, p. 6, § 50; Ga. L. 2011, p. 514, § 4/HB 264.

§ 50-12-26. Appointment of personnel for council

The commissioner of economic development shall select and appoint such personnel as the commissioner shall determine to be necessary to support the council and the programs undertaken pursuant to this article.

HISTORY: Ga. L. 1976, p. 748, § 7; Ga. L. 1986, p. 174, § 2; Ga. L. 2011, p. 514, § 5/HB 264.

***Current Statute through 2013**