

Please bring HB 6119 up for a vote before the March 30th deadline so that this critical piece of legislation can move forward.

HB 6119 provides much-needed financial aid to the state's arts, culture, and tourism industries, which are critical to the state's economy. Together, they represent 15% of the state's total economy, generating billions of dollars and employing over 175,000 citizens directly.

Like all parts of the economy, the arts and culture sectors have been hit hard by the pandemic. Organizations were forced to reduce operations or shut down completely, resulting in layoffs, lost revenue, and deficits that threaten permanent closure for many. The bill addresses these economic losses and positions these industries to be fully up to capacity once the pandemic is behind us. HB 6119 is not only critical to the recovery of the arts and culture industries, but to the recovery of Connecticut's economy as a whole. No major town or city's plan for regeneration is complete without a designated cultural quarter (Dungey, 2004). Connecticut can't recover without the arts!

The bill is supported by the legislature's Arts, Culture, and Tourism Caucus, whose chairs recently sent a letter to their colleagues urging them to co-sponsor the bill. It is also supported by Connecticut Arts Alliance and the Connecticut Tourism Coalition, which represent the arts, culture, and tourism industries in the state.

Dungey J. Overview: Arts, Culture and the Local Economy. *Local Economy*. 2004;19(4):411-413.  
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