A RESOLUTION
URGING THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS TO ALLOCATE SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-FIVE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED FORTY-TWO THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED THIRTY PESOS AND FIFTY-SIX CENTAVOS (P745,442,330.56) FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COVID-19 RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY PROGRAMS FOR ARTS, CULTURE, AND THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

WHEREAS, Article XIV, Section 14 of the 1987 Constitution provides 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;

WHEREAS, Article XIV, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution provides that arts and letters shall enjoy the patronage of the State. The State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation’s historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Creative Industries is comprised of 4.8 million creative Filipinos or 11.3% of total employment as of 2019 and has contributed 7.34% of the Gross Domestic Product of the country based on a 2014 study of the World Intellectual Property Office and the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, it is estimated that the creative industries have lost 90% of their revenues due to the effects of Covid-19;
WHEREAS, acknowledging the major role of the Philippine creative industries in the country’s road to economic recovery, on 05 June 2021, the members of the Arts and Culture and Creative Industries Bloc of the 18th Congress (ACCIB) wrote a letter to the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), endorsing Five Hundred Forty-Nine Million Six Hundred Thirty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Pesos and Fifty-Six centavos (P549,638,330.56) worth of programs be funded in the 2022 National Expenditure Program (NEP) across various government agencies;

WHEREAS, the programs endorsed by ACCIB in its letter seek to give direct support to artists and cultural professionals, grant support to creative firms and businesses, and strengthen the competitiveness of our country’s Cultural and Creative Industries;

WHEREAS, the funds endorsed mentioned in the letter dated 05 June 2021 are broken down across the various agencies to wit: P101,000,000.00 to the Department of Trade and Industry; P70,371,125.00 DTI to the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions; P56,500,000.00 to the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP); P55,000,000.00 to the DOST - Philippine Textile Research Institute (PTRI); P33,634,000.00 to the National Book Development Board (NBDB); P32,300,000.00 to the DepEd - National Council for Children's Television; P29,000,000.00 to the DTI - Design Center of the Philippines; P25,000,000.00 to the DFA - Office of Public and Cultural Diplomacy – Cultural Diplomacy Division; P22,112,805.56 to the DepEd - National Museum; P20,000,000.00 to the DOST - Philippine Council for Industry, Energy And Emerging Technology Research and Development (PCIEERD); P20,000,000.00 to the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP); P17,700,000.00 to the DA - Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA); P12,890,000.00 to the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP); P10,000,000.00 to the DOST - Forest Products Research and Development Institute; P10,000,000.00 to the DOT - Intramuros Administration; P10,000,000.00 to DOT - Nayong Pilipino Foundation; P8,340,000.00 to the DOT - National Parks Development Committee; P6,060,400.00 to the DFA - UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines; P4,730,000.00 to the DepEd – National Library of the Philippines; P3,000,000.00 to DOST - National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP); and P2,000,000.00 to the DepEd - Philippine High School for the Arts, all of which totals to the amount of Five Hundred Forty-Nine Million Six Hundred Thirty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Pesos and Fifty-Six centavos (P549,638,330.56);

WHEREAS, on 08 July 2021, another letter from ACCIB was sent to the DBM to endorse the funding of One Hundred Fifty-Five Million Eight Hundred Four Thousand Pesos (P155,804,000.00) worth of programs from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP);

WHEREAS, the prioritization has been based on the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) publication entitled “Policy Guide for a Resilient Creative Sector” that was specifically issued to guide policymakers in giving aid to the creative industries;

WHEREAS, notwithstanding the strong endorsement of ACCIB, the aforementioned programs remained unfunded under the National Expenditure Program (NEP) 2021 that was submitted to Congress last August 23, 2021;
WHEREAS, on 09 September 2021, a letter from Rep. Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, Chairman of the Committee on Science and Technology was sent to ACCIB to endorse the funding of Forty Million Pesos (P40,000,000) worth of additional budget to the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) to support its policy advisory role to government as it is currently conducting researches to several offices of congressmen and senators. Around 13 demand driven policy researches from legislators in both Congress and Senate are being readied by the NRCP.

WHEREAS, during the budget briefing of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), conducted by the House Committee on Appropriations on 10 September 2021, it was confirmed that the Creative Industries Development Program, as well as other programs that would benefit the creative industry stakeholders, remained unfunded for Fiscal Year 2022 under the NEP;

WHEREAS, there is a need to allocate funds for the implementation of the creative industries development program under DTI, as well as other related programs of the arts, culture and creative industries in order to jumpstart the recovery, growth and development of the creative stakeholders, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic where there is a rapid economic decline and high unemployment rate;

WHEREAS, it is a collective belief among the members of ACCIB that the programs mentioned in the endorsement letters will strengthen the competitiveness of our cultural and creative industries by making our country’s presence felt in important international cultural events, developing our physical infrastructure, and investing in cultural assets such as living traditions;

WHEREAS, there is an indispensable necessity for the expedient and adequately funded introduction for the Creative Economy to fuel the needs of our creative stakeholders in order to rise again from the negative effects of the pandemic;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the House of Representatives, that the Committee on Appropriations allocate an additional Seven Hundred Forty Five Million Four Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Pesos and Fifty-Six Centavos (P745,442,330.56) through the General Appropriations Act of 2022 to fund the implementation of the Creative Industries Development Program under the DTI, as well as other related programs in the arts, culture, and creative industries, as stipulated in the letters of ACCIB to DBM dated 05 June 2021 and 08 July 2021, respectively, as well as the letter endorsement of Rep. Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado to ACCIB dated 09 September 2021.

Adopted,

HON. CHRISTOPHER V.P. DE VENECIA

HON. LOREN LEGARDA
HON. FLORIDA "RIDA" P. ROBES

HON. ROSANNA "RIA" V. VERGARA

HON. DAN S. FERNANDEZ