

## ACE ACT

An Act improving accessibility in the creative economy

Sponsored by Sen. Paul Mark and Rep. Dan Donahue

### LANDSCAPE

In 2022, Open Door Arts and the Mass Cultural Council released their report, [“Towards a Culture of Access: Findings From the Massachusetts Arts & Culture Access Survey.”](#) Their findings show that while 1 in 4 adults and 1 in 2 adults ages 65+ in Massachusetts has one or more disabilities, the disabilities community continues to experience significant attitudinal, physical, and programmatic barriers that prevents them from fully participating in arts and culture opportunities. The majority of survey respondents expressed that funding, staffing, facilities, skills, and training all impacted their potential to make venues and programs more accessible.

### ABOUT THE ACE ACT

H.151/S.113 would establish the Accessibility in the Creative Economy (ACE) Fund to provide grants to organizations focused on the arts, culture, humanities, and interpretive sciences to remove barriers encountered by people with disabilities. By dedicating more funding through the Massachusetts Office on Disability specifically for cultural organizations, we can build a creative economy where everyone can enjoy and belong within the stories, performances, and installations present within our communities.

### THE ACE ACT:

- For-profit, nonprofit and public organizations throughout the Commonwealth that are part of the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences sector would be eligible to apply for Accessibility in the Creative Economy (ACE) grant funding.
- ACE would be administered by the Office on Disability to support capital improvements and projects to improve programmatic access and remove barriers encountered by persons with disabilities.
- An 11-person board consisting of a majority of individuals with disabilities and individuals with experience advocating on behalf of individuals with disabilities would make recommendations on the grant criteria to the Office on Disability.
- No less than half of 1% of funds allocated for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services would go to ACE. The Office on Disability could accept donations for the fund from individuals, organizations, associations, nonprofits, businesses, estates, foundations or other entities.

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### WANT TO SHARE YOUR SUPPORT?

- Contact your state representative and state senator and ask them to co-sponsor H.151/S.113. You can find your elected officials at <https://www.mass-creative.org/learn/electedlookup>.
- You can also send your elected officials a message encouraging them to co-sponsor MASSCreative's entire 2023-2024 policy agenda by visiting our website at <https://www.mcan-ma.org/take-action/legislativeagenda> or using the QR code.
- Contact MASSCreative at [info@mass-creative.org](mailto:info@mass-creative.org) with any questions about the legislation, to sign up your organization to endorse, and to join our coalition!



### ENDORSEMENTS:

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|---|--|--|
| MASSCreative                                  | Coolidge Corner Theatre Foundation     | Pop Up Art School                            |
| Open Door Arts                                | Cotuit Center for the Arts             | Provincetown Art Association and Museum      |
| Abilities Dance Boston                        | Dance in the Schools                   | Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy            |
| Community Access to the Arts (CATA)           | Holyoke Civic Symphony                 | Shelter Music Boston                         |
| New England Foundation for the Arts           | Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival          | Snow Farm - The New England Craft Program    |
| Mass Humanities                               | LightHouse Holyoke                     | The Center for Independent Documentary, Inc. |
| Berkshire Pulse, Center for the Creative Arts | Mother Brook Arts and Community Center | The Flavor Continues                         |
| Boston Dance Alliance                         | Noopur Nritya Academy                  |  |
| Bright Lights Cinema at Emerson College       | Northampton Center for the Arts        |  |
| Brockton Garden Club                          | Northampton Community Arts Trust       |  |
| Community Art Center, Inc.                    | Parrish Relics                         |  |
|   | PlayZoomers, Inc.                      |  |

### LEARN MORE

TOWARDS A CULTURE OF ACCESS REPORT:

<https://massculturalcouncil.org/documents/FINAL-TOWARDS-A-CULTURE-OF-ACCESS.pdf>