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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 234
134th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for S.B. 234's Bill Analysis](#)

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Lang

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

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Highlights

- The bill appropriates \$50.0 million in FY 2022 for the Department of Development to provide grants to qualifying performing arts organizations and museums whose revenues have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. If all the funding is not distributed in FY 2022, the bill allows for any remaining amount to be carried forward and used for grants in FY 2023.

Detailed Analysis

The bill appropriates \$50.0 million in FY 2022 under GRF line item 195573, Arts Grant Program, for the Department of Development to fund grants for certain performing arts organizations and operators of cultural arts museums impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (see the LSC bill analysis for eligible applicant criteria). The amount of each grant is based on the performing arts organization's or cultural arts museum's estimated revenue losses from March 9, 2020, through the bill's effective date. The bill limits the grant to the lesser of \$3.0 million or a percentage of the organization's or museum's operating budget for CY 2019 (7.0% for performing arts organizations and 5% for cultural arts museums). Grants are to be used for (1) employee compensation, excluding bonuses, (2) employee recruitment, rehiring, and training expenses, (3) rent or mortgage payments, (4) operating costs, and (5) any capital expenditure, durable good, or service necessary to comply with state COVID-19 orders or to improve health and safety.

Under the bill, qualifying organizations may not use a grant awarded under the bill's program for any expenses paid or reimbursed with a federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act grant funds previously awarded by the Ohio Arts Council (ART). ART distributed funding supported by the federal CARES Act to performing arts organizations and cultural arts museums in the state impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Controlling Board previously approved two such appropriations: (1) \$20.0 million in FY 2021 under the Coronavirus

Relief Fund (Fund 5CV1) line item 370503, Coronavirus Relief – Arts and Cultural Organizations (approved on October 26, 2020), and (2) \$517,200 in FY 2021 under CARES Act Arts Support Fund (Fund 3HR0) line item 370504, CARES Act Arts Support (approved on July 13, 2020). More recently, on August 2, 2021, the Controlling Board approved an appropriation for \$919,200 in FY 2022 under ARPA Arts Support Fund (Fund 3HY0) line item 370505, ARPA Arts Support. This particular line item is funded by the federal American Rescue Plan Act.