



NEW HAMPSHIRE SENATE

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
May 29, 2025

Senate Republicans Revive Arts Council with Granite Patron of the Arts Fund

CONCORD, NH – Senate President Sharon Carson (R-Londonderry) and Senate Majority Whip Tim Lang (R-Sanbornton) today announced a proposal to create the Granite Patron for the Arts Fund. The proposal would restore up to \$1.7 million for the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts through the Granite Patron of the Arts Tax Credit. Businesses that donate to the Fund would be eligible for a 50% Tax Credit against their state tax obligations, effectively matching private sector donations with state aid:

“The Senate Finance Committee agreed that Medicaid, Developmental Disabilities, and Community Mental Health were our top priorities in this budget, but we all wanted to find a way to keep the Arts Council alive,” Senator Carson said.

“This creative solution leverages scarce state resources with matching private sector donations and federal grants to generate more than \$3.7 million for the Arts Council,” Senator Lang added. *Written by Peter O’Neill*

Background: The Senate Finance Committee adopted the amendment to HB 2, and will make a final recommendation on the state budget package next week. The Carson-Lang Amendment to HB 2, the state budget trailer bill, would appropriate \$150,000 per year to the Arts Council for staff and overhead costs, plus tax credits for the first \$700,000 per year donated to the Granite Patron of the Arts Fund. The Arts Council would be able to accept more than \$1 million annually in federal grant funds as well as other private donations.

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