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## **SB71-20/21: Resolution Creating Ballot Referenda Language Regarding a New Arts and Culture Fee**

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1                                   **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2       **Resolution Creating Ballot Referenda Language Regarding a New Arts and Culture Fee**  
3                                   **March, 12 2021**  
4                                   **SB71-19/20**

5       **Authored by: Ethan Hanley, ASUM Business Manager; Noah Durnell, ASUM Senator;**  
6

7       Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) represents student  
8       interests at the University of Montana (UM);  
9

10       Whereas, An average of 75 arts and cultural events are held annually at UM according to the  
11       College of Arts and Media (CAM) fiscal year event calendar<sup>1</sup>;  
12

13       Whereas, Nearly all arts and cultural events in the CAM fiscal year event calendar are put on by  
14       the staff, faculty, and students of CAM<sup>2</sup>;  
15

16       Whereas, Nearly all arts and cultural events in the CAM fiscal year event calendar are ticketed  
17       on average between \$5.00 and \$15.00<sup>3</sup>;  
18

19       Whereas, A single student's attendance of all events in a given year would range from \$325.00 to  
20       \$975.00 based on the above averages;  
21

22       Whereas, An Arts and Culture Fee would waive arts and cultural programming primarily out of  
23       the CAM;  
24

25       Whereas, An Arts and Culture Fee would make all currently ticketed arts and cultural events free  
26       to UM students;  
27

28       Whereas, UM practices similar fee structures currently with the Athletics fee, which makes all  
29       ticketed athletic events free to UM students:  
30

31                   *Athletic Fee\* - This fee entitles student access to athletic events and also supports*  
32                   *athletic facilities and operations<sup>4</sup>;*  
33

34       Whereas, ASUM values equity<sup>5</sup>;  
35

36       Whereas, Fee structures of this nature are meant to provide equitable access to events at UM;  
37

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<sup>1</sup> *College of the Arts and Media: Events.* University of Montana, <https://www.umt.edu/umarts/Events/default.php>. Accessed 12 March, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *College of the Arts and Media: Box Office.* University of Montana, <https://www.umt.edu/umarts/boxoffice/default.php>. Accessed 12 March, 2021.

<sup>4</sup> *2009-2010 Course Catalog.* University of Montana, [http://archive.umt.edu/catalog/09\\_10/eso/expenses/fees.html](http://archive.umt.edu/catalog/09_10/eso/expenses/fees.html). Accessed 12 March 2021.

<sup>5</sup> *Associated Students of University of Montana S. Bill 8, ll. 17-19, 26-27, 2020-2021 S.* Accessed 12 March, 2021.

38 Whereas, ASUM values cultural diversity<sup>6</sup>;

39

40 Whereas, Implementing a new Arts and Culture Fees would provide the funding necessary to  
41 host more culturally diverse artists and programming at UM;

42

43 Whereas, Article 10 Section 2 of the ASUM Constitution provides:

44

45 *Section 2 . Upon the petition of five percent (5%) of the membership of the ASUM, or an*  
46 *ASUM policy calling for the support of a new University of Montana or ASUM fee, the*  
47 *ASUM Senate shall be obligated to conduct a referendum. Alternatively, the Senate may*  
48 *initiate a referendum by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. In order to pass, at least twelve percent*  
49 *(12%) of ASUM members must vote, and a majority (50% plus one) of those voting must*  
50 *vote to ratify the referendum proposal. Notice of such a referendum must be published in*  
51 *the Montana Kaimin in each of the four issues preceding the referendum voting date.;*

52

53 Whereas, Given the Arts and Culture Fee is a new proposed fee, the ASUM Senate must conduct  
54 a referendum to all ASUM members;

55

56 Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That the language regarding the implementation of a new Arts  
57 and Culture Fee at the University of Montana read as follows:

58

59 *“The University of Montana is seeking to establish the Arts and Culture fee starting at*  
60 *\$25 per semester. This new fee would go to fund arts and cultural programming*  
61 *primarily out of the College of Arts and Media. Currently, these programs charge*  
62 *students between five to fifteen dollars to attend these events. Paying the fee would allow*  
63 *students to attend these programs for free in addition to giving these programs the*  
64 *assurance their programs are consistently funded every year.*

65

66 \_\_\_\_\_ *YES, I support the establishment of the Arts and Culture Fee.*

67

68 \_\_\_\_\_ *NO, I do not support the establishment of the Arts and Culture Fee.”;*

69

70 Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to Cierra Anderson, Chair of  
71 the ASUM Elections committee; Dr. Laurie Baefsky, Dean of the CAM; Paul Lassiter, UM  
72 Vice-President of Operations and Finance.

73

74

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76 Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

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78 Passed by ASUM Senate: March 17, 2021

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<sup>6</sup> Associated Students of University of Montana S. Bill 8, ll. 17-19, 26-27, 2020-2021 S. Accessed 12 March, 2021.

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83

84 Noah Durnell,  
85 Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee

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Patrick James Flanagan,  
Chair of the Senate

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