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## Region's film scene may soon get final 'cut'

**PHILADELPHIA.** The region's growing allure to filmmakers, who spent more than \$200 million in production costs here the past two years, will likely fade to black if proposed cuts by the city and state are approved.

The Greater Philadelphia Film Office's \$800,000 budget this year will shrink to less than half later this summer after cuts, executive director Sharon Pinkenson said yesterday, making their ability to draw Hollywood's big spenders impossible.

Senate Republicans are also toying with the idea of eliminating a tax credit filmmakers receive for making films in the state. The Senate yesterday passed a lean budget that would close a \$3 billion deficit but include the elimination of all arts funding. The approval is a first salvo in what promises to be tough budget negotiations.

"There won't be any business. It'll be like the 1990s," Pinkenson said. "We'll have a couple tourism commercials, maybe some lottery advertisements. And the thousands in southeastern Pennsylvania who work in the local film industry will lose any work they had."

The film industry won't be the only casualty within the city's arts and culture scene if the Senate proposal is approved. The leader of the Arden Theater told supporters in an e-mail this week that it would lose \$78,000 in funding from the state. That translates to the cost of an entire cast in one of the Old City playhouse's shows.

The Senate has proposed eliminating the entire \$15 million in funding for arts organizations and film offices that the state gave out this year.



Senate passes budget devoid of arts funding, which would cripple local movie making Metro: Rikard Larma

**"There are some things that will come to an end and some organizations that will come to an end. I don't think this has ever happened in Pennsylvania."**

Philip Horn of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, which stands to lose all its funding.

**Brian X. McCrone**

Your turn:



(0 comments)

