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June 29, 2020

Dear Arts Action Fund Member,

We need you to take **two minutes** to [contact your U.S. Representative and Senators](#) to call on them to pass further COVID-19 economic relief legislation before Congress recesses on July 31st.

The Coronavirus has had a devastating **\$8.4 billion economic impact loss** on America's arts sector with a **67% unemployment rate** among artists and gig workers. Since the first U.S. case was reported in January, 96% of arts and culture organizations have cancelled events—some as far out as 2021—resulting in a loss of **325 million ticketed admissions** and billions of dollars more lost in event-related spending by audiences at local businesses (restaurants, lodging, retail), impacting 533,000 jobs.



Tomorrow, on June 30th, the Small Business Administration's highly popular **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)** ends with more than a \$130 billion surplus. We urge Congress to use these funds to allow the arts and culture sector, including nonprofits and gig workers, to have an opportunity to apply for a second forgivable loan with these surplus funds. For example, the entire "Arts, Entertainment & Recreation" sector represented only 1.5% (\$7.9 billion) of all PPP allocated funds.

Additionally, the **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)** program, providing an additional \$600/week to the 20 million Americans receiving state unemployment assistance will end on July 31st. Many states opened applications for pandemic unemployment for self-employed, gig workers very late and now with no ability to re-open cultural venues any time soon, we need an extension of pandemic unemployment benefits.

Please take **two minutes** to send a customizable E-alert to your **U.S. Representative and Senators** to call on them to extend the pandemic unemployment assistance and provide a second round of the Paycheck Protection Program to the arts sector by July 31st.

Thank you for everything **you** do to enrich people's lives through the arts. If possible, please also consider contributing to the Arts Action Fund.

**Contribute NOW!**

● \$10 ● \$25 ● \$50 ● \$100

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Executive Director

