

June \_\_\_\_, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-230 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Finance  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Finance  
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Neal  
Chair  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
372 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
1011 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ben Cardin  
Chair  
Senate Committee on Small Business &  
Entrepreneurship  
509 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rand Paul  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Small Business &  
Entrepreneurship  
167 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Nydia Velazquez  
Chair  
House Committee on Small Business  
2302 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Small Business  
2230 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McCarthy, Leader McConnell, and Chairs and Ranking Members,

As Congress continues to pursue opportunities providing much needed support to those industries hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are reaching out to raise key concerns that

would have a large impact on the arts and culture community, a community essential to the nation's economic recovery.

With ongoing uncertainty and continued economic disruption amidst the emergence of COVID-19 variants like Omicron BA-2, our arts and culture sector needs ongoing support to keep their doors open, our workers employed, and our local economies healthy, especially now that the financial lifelines so generously provided earlier in the pandemic are no longer available.

We understand that COVID relief proposals introduced in April would establish new relief programs. We ask that any new programs remain available to self-employed workers, sole proprietors, small LLCs, and to nonprofit arts organizations of all sizes to support the arts workforce and communities until the arts can resume full operations.

In order to meet the need for ongoing relief, we would also urge, that the amount of time allowed for grant recipients to use Shuttered Venue Operators Grants be expanded to include costs incurred through March 11, 2023, as provided in S. 2889, the Extension Act.

An additional concern is with the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC). This has been an invaluable lifeline to many arts organizations, but many are still waiting to receive refund credits, and the loss of an ERTC for Q4 of 2021 left many organizations in financial peril. Delays in organizations receiving this promised aid is causing cash flow and budget issues. We ask your support to:

- Reinstatement of the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC) for the fourth quarter of 2021 (H.R. 6161 / S. 3625) and extend its duration into 2022.
- Help in establishing a direct line to the IRS to ensure our arts organizations can learn of the status of their ERTC payments and speed up the distribution of credits.
- Modify nonprofit eligibility beyond the current "gross receipts" eligibility test to more accurately reflect funds that nonprofits could access by excluding restricted and unrealized funds that are not available to support the workforce. This modification in eligibility would ensure eligibility equity between the nonprofit and for profit sector.

As Congress and the Administration formulate ongoing support and recovery policy, greater relief is needed for the recovery of our art and cultural workers and communities.

Contributing more than \$876.7 billion to the nation's economy in 2020, the arts and culture sector is an economic engine that directly employs more than 5 million workers nationwide. The current and continuing losses sustained by nonprofit arts organizations throughout the nation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic have reached a staggering \$18 billion.

We want to express our deep gratitude for your leadership over the course of the pandemic. These measures, which are supported by the United States Conference of Mayors, will enable us to build our communities, stimulate minds, inspire hearts, and add much-needed infusion of spending to our local economies. Thank you for helping to make this important work possible.

Sincerely,