

September 17, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of  
Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin  
McCarthy  
Minority Leader of the House  
of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch  
McConnell  
Majority Leader of the Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E.  
Schumer  
Minority Leader of the Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Essential Arts Funding

As members of the arts, entertainment and media industry – from stage actors and musicians to directors, dancers, opera performers and beyond – we are writing to request that the Congress provide an additional \$9 billion in emergency funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). Without an additional \$9 billion in arts funding the future of many cherished art institutions will remain in jeopardy because of the devastating impact of the Coronavirus on arts institutions that rely on public participation to survive. We appreciate the emergency arts funding included in the CARES Act, but it was only a first step; additional funding is required.

The pandemic has decimated the live performing arts. Our industry was one of the first to shut down, and our venues remain dark in most states. According to one national study, the industry has already realized \$9 billion in losses. That is why we are writing to seek an emergency \$9 billion in supplemental funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities and Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Small theatre companies and large-scale productions alike have already made deep cuts. Some have already closed entirely, including a major Broadway musical. Others, with dwindling reserves and the end of PPP funding, face difficult choices. If Congress does not intervene, many more productions and entire arts institutions may close permanently. Decisions made in the weeks ahead will shape the future of the arts sector for years to come. On behalf of everyone in the arts, we encourage you to think much more boldly about supporting the arts or our entire economy will be slower to recover.

Whether we are employers or workers, we are not only proud of our creative accomplishments but also recognize our vital contribution to our local economies. That is why Congress must act to invest in additional arts funding at all levels that ensures local arts employers have the resources they need to quickly recover and reopen when appropriate. This will ensure the arts continue generating the economic halo effect that boosts local communities large and small. Whether we work behind the scenes or perform onstage, this funding would make all the difference.

The arts and entertainment are responsible for more than four million jobs, and they power a sector responsible for \$877.8 billion in value and 4.5% of U.S. gross domestic product, according to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies. Furthermore, they are an important generator of additional jobs and GDP in the larger economy: the average nonprofit arts attendee spends another \$31.41 per person, per show beyond the cost of admission, according to Americans for the Arts. That includes

165 WEST 46 STREET NEW YORK NY 10036 TELEPHONE 212.869.8530 FAX 212.719.9815 WWW.ACTORSEQUITY.ORG  
557 West Randolph Street Chicago IL 60661, 312.641.0393 5636 Tujunga Ave North Hollywood CA 91601, 323.978.8080  
10319 Orangewood Boulevard Orlando FL 32821, 407.345.8600

spending at restaurants, parking and even the babysitter. Nationally, this spending supports 2.3 million jobs in all 50 states, provides \$46.6 billion in household income and generates \$15.7 billion in total government revenue.

The National Endowment for the Arts is a proven funding agency that can move funding quickly with the necessary safeguards for workers. With current industry employment at nearly zero, we hope we can count on Congress to support the arts with emergency arts funding for the NEA, NEH and CPB. Doing so will drive a faster economic recovery for everyone.

Sincerely, the undersigned.

Actors' Equity Association	The Barnstormers Theatre	Colt Coeur Theater Company
Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO	BATS Improv, San Francisco	Confluence Theatre Company
The League of Resident Theatres	Bay Area Theatresports	Connecticut Repertory Theater
The 5th Avenue Theatre	Bay Street Theater	Cornerstone Theater Company
12 Peers Theater	Berkeley Playhouse, Inc.	Cromono International, Inc.
A Red Orchid Theatre	Berkeley Repertory Theatre	Crowded Fire Theater Company
A Red Orchid Theatre	Black Ensemble Theater Corporation	De Anza College
AB2Cue Productions Inc	Boise Contemporary Theater	Diversionsary Theatre
About Face Theatre	Book-It Repertory Theatre	Elm Shakespeare Company
Act II Playhouse, Ltd.	BOP Productions	Enbee Productions
Act of Connecticut	Boston Playwrights' Theatre	The Encore Musical Theatre Company
Act of Connecticut	Breanetta Productions	Ensemble Studio Theatre
The Acting Company	Buffalo Theatre Ensemble	Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati
Actor's Express	The Caduceus Theater Arts Company	Evan Bernardin Productions
Adrienne Moore Dialect Coaching	Cain Park/City of Cleveland Heights	First Folio Theatre
Alabama Shakespeare Festival	Cape May Stage	Flint Repertory Theatre
All For One Theater Company	Capital Repertory Theatre	Florida Atlantic University
Alliance Theatre	Capital Stage Company	Florida Repertory Theatre
Alternative Theater Ensemble	Casa 0101	The Fountain Theatre
American Conservatory Theater	Center Theatre Group	Franklin Stage Company
Amphibian Stage Productions	Central Works	FUSION Theatre Company
Annoyance Theatre	Charlotte Wilcox Company	George Street Playhouse
AppleFig Productions, LLC	Chenango River Theatre	GFour Productions
Arc Stages	Cherry Lane Theatre	Gloucester Stage Company
Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre	Children's Musical Theater San Jose	Goodman Theatre
Artists Repertory Theatre	Children's Theatre Company	Goodspeed Musicals
Asolo Repertory Theatre	Childsplay, Inc.	Great River Shakespeare Festival
Atlanta Lyric Theatre	City Theatre Company (Pittsburgh, PA)	Greater Boston Stage Company
Atlantic Theater Company	Clackamas Repertory Theatre	Gretna Theatre
Aurora Theatre Company	Cleveland Musical Theatre	Ground Series
Austin Playhouse	Clifton Guterman Casting	The Growing Stage - The Children's Theatre of New Jersey
Austin Shakespeare	Colorado Shakespeare Festival	Harbor Stage Company
Baltimore Center Stage		Harborside Productions LLC

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Harlequin Productions	New Hampshire Theatre Project	The San Francisco Mime
HERE	New Light Theater Project	Troupe
Hippodrome State Theatre, Inc.	New London Barn Playhouse	San Francisco Shakespeare
The History Theatre	New York Classical Theatre	Festival
Horizon Theatre Company	New York Stage and Film	Sandra Feinstein-Gamm
The House Theatre of Chicago	A Noise Within	Theatre
Huntington Theatre Company	Northlight Theatre	Santa Cruz Shakespeare
Idaho Shakespeare Festival	off the WALL productions	Saudade Theatre
Illusion Theater	Oklahoma Shakespeare in the	The Second City, Inc.
Inside Broadway	Park, Inc.	The Shakespeare Center of
InterAct Theatre Company	Olney Theatre Center	Los Angeles
Intiman Theatre	Optimist Theatre	Shakespeare Theatre
Irish Arts Center	Oregon Shakespeare Festival	Association
Kenny Leon's True Colors	Out of the Box Theatrics	Shakespeare Theatre
Theatre Company	Ozark Actors Theatre	Company
Key City Players, Inc	P3 Theatre Company	The Shakespeare Theatre of
Kolins Productions LLC	Pacific Repertory Theatre	New Jersey
The Lakeside Theatre Company	Paper Mill Playhouse	Short North Stage
Left Edge Theatre	Paramount Theatre	Shotgun Players Theatre
Lewis Productions	Parley	Showtunes Theatre
Lincoln Center Theater	Penguin Repertory Theatre	Signature Theatre
Lookingglass Theatre Company	Pennsylvania Shakespeare	Sierra Repertory Theatre
Lorraine Hansberry Theatre	Festival	Sleep Tite Productions
Lucky Penny Productions	Penobscot Theatre Company	Slow Burn Theatre Company\
Lyric Repertory Company	People's Light	SoCal Symphony Society
Lyric Stage Company of Boston	Perseverance Theatre	Speranza Theatre Company
Main Street Playwrights Lab	Philadelphia Theatre Company	St. Ann's Warehouse
Manhattan Theatre Club	The Play Company	St. Louis Shakespeare
Marin Theatre Company	Play On Shakespeare	Festival
Martha's Vineyard Playhouse	PlayGround	Stage West Theatre
Martian Entertainment LLC	Playwrights Foundation	StageOne Family Theatre
Matunuck Live Theatre (Theatre	Portland Center Stage	Steep Theatre Company
By The Sea)	Portland Playhouse	Steppenwolf
Max & Louie Productions	Potomac Theatre Project PTP/	Still Point Theatre Collective
Ma-Yi Theater Company	NYC	Storybook Musical Theatre
MCC Theater	Prospect Theater Company	Studio Tenn
MetroStage	Pushcart Players	Sun Valley Museum of Art
The Michigan Shakespeare	Quintessence Theatre Group, Inc.	Syracuse Stage
Festival	Raue Center for the Arts &	Tandem Otter Productions
Mill Mountain Theatre	Williams Street Rep.	Target Margin Theater
Montgomery Theater	Reagle Music Theatre of Greater	Teatro Vista
Mosaic Theater Company of DC	Boston	Thalia's Umbrella
The Muny	Riverside Theatre, Inc.	The Theatre Company
Musical Theatre West	Rocky Mountain Repertory	(Oregon)
Nebraska Shakespeare	Theatre	Theatre for a New Audience
New Georges	Saint Michael's Playhouse	Theatre for Young America
The New Group	Salt Lake Acting Company	Theatre Under The Stars

Theatre22  
TheatreFIRST  
TheatreWorks Silicon Valley  
Theatrical Outfit  
Third Rail Alive Productions  
Tiny Dynamite Theatre  
Company  
Tipping Point Theatre  
Tricycle Theatre for Youth  
Trinity Repertory Company  
Tuacahn Center for the Arts  
Tulsa Project Theatre  
University Resident Theatre Association  
upstart crow collective  
Upstream Theater  
Utah Shakespeare Festival  
Victory Gardens Theater  
Virginia Stage Company  
Visceral Entertainment  
Walking on Water Productions, Inc. (WoW)  
The Warehouse Theatre  
Warren Miller Performing Arts Center  
Waterwell Productions, Inc.  
Wellesley Repertory Theatre  
Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater / Outermost  
Performing Arts Center  
The Wilbury Theatre Group  
The Williams Project  
Williamston Theatre  
The Winter Park Playhouse  
Z Space  
ZACH Theatre  
Zeiders American Dream  
Theater  
Lassen Hines  
Edward Miskie  
Joshua Schell  
Christopher Sepulveda

cc: Rep. Elise Stefanik and Rep. Chellie Pingree