

(5)TB, Lisa, Barb, Micaela, Public

Lisa Potswald

From: Micaela Montagne
Sent: Monday, July 6, 2020 9:11 AM
To: Lisa Potswald; Susan Sabre
Subject: Fw: La Pointe Public Art Committee - please sign this letter asking federal representatives to support relief for Wisconsin's creative sector

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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RECEIVED

JUL 7 2020

Initial: dg from Lisa

From: akatz <akatz@artswisconsin.org>
Sent: Saturday, July 4, 2020 8:16 AM
To: steve@mchughimages.com <steve@mchughimages.com>; Micaela Montagne <clerk@townoflapointewi.gov>
Subject: La Pointe Public Art Committee - please sign this letter asking federal representatives to support relief for Wisconsin's creative sector

Hello Steve and Lisa - I'm getting in touch because I want to make sure that the La Pointe Public Art Committee is on the supporter list for this important advocacy message to Wisconsin's federal representatives. We currently have over 130 businesses, for-profit and nonprofit, involved, but we know there are many, many more to be heard from.

This call to action is connected to a nationwide effort making the case that investment in the creative sector is critically important at this moment in time. You need to be part of this. Sign on today. Get in touch if you want to discuss. Thanks for signing on and be well - Anne

Arts Wisconsin is asking the state's creative sector organizations and businesses to sign on to this letter from Wisconsin's arts businesses, for-profit and non-profit.

- [Click here for the draft letter and signers to date.](#)
- [Click here to complete the form to join the list of supporters.](#)

Please add your voice to the chorus calling on our Congressional representatives to support and invest in the state's creative assets as plans develop for additional forms of federal assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Anne Katz, Director | Arts Wisconsin | Box 1054, Madison, WI 53701 | 608 255 8316 |
akatz@artswisconsin.org | www.artswisconsin.org | Help Arts Wisconsin keep Wisconsin's creative

economy strong: www.mightycause.com/organization/artswisconsin | COVID-19 resources and info:
www.artswisconsin.org/covid-19/

DRAFT 7-6-20

July 8, 2020

To: Wisconsin congressional and legislative representatives:

Sen. Ron Johnson

Sen. Tammy Baldwin

Rep. Bryan Steil, 1st District

Rep. Mark Pocan, 2nd District

Rep. Ron Kind, 3rd District

Rep. Gwen Moore, 4th District

Rep. James Sensenbrenner, 5th District

Rep. Glenn Grothman, 6th District

Rep. Tom Tiffany, 7th District

Rep. Mike Gallagher, 8th District

From: Wisconsin creative sector organizations and businesses (list below)

Re: Recovery, revitalization, and investment in Wisconsin's creative businesses and workers

The United States is navigating unprecedented economic and civic uncertainty due to the spread of COVID-19. As Congress and the Administration plan federal assistance addressing the effects of the ongoing pandemic, we have come together to ask for investment in Wisconsin's creative businesses and workers, to sustain and strengthen this industry as essential to grow the 21st century local and statewide economy, uplift the human spirit, animate the issues of our time, and bring together people and communities.

As representatives of this statewide sector, we ask you to champion and support the economic contributions of the arts and creativity to Wisconsin, its people, and its communities. The pandemic has shuttered thousands of creative sector businesses - theaters, concert halls, museums, studios, festivals, symphonies, film and production companies, galleries - and has sidelined even more independent and self-employed creative workers, in Wisconsin and throughout the country. The ongoing loss of revenue and the declines in charitable contributions are damaging small businesses and individual livelihoods for the long-term. The COVID-19 crisis has hit the creative sector and its related industries, including tourism, hard, and the effects will deepen as shutdowns and cancellations continue.

Many creative people and creative businesses have jumped into doing what they do – innovating through online arts experiences and distance learning opportunities, serving audiences now and making plans for an uncertain future. Even so, with the continuing loss of revenue and the slow return of audiences and constituents to public gatherings, the crisis means catastrophic financial impact on creative businesses and creative workers, and on the small businesses and the communities dependent on the economic revenues and civic benefits involved.

It is becoming clear that our communities and the nation are at grave risk of losing an essential component of our economy and civic infrastructure, at the moment when that 21st century industry can affect and accelerate recovery and revitalization from the local level on up.

The creative sector serves artistic and educational missions through myriad occupations filled by individuals who work in full-time, part-time, hourly, seasonal, and freelance capacities. In March 2020, the U.S. Department of Commerce reported that the arts and culture workforce contributed **\$877.8 billion**, or 4.5 percent, to the nation's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2017. ***The impact for Wisconsin was \$10.1 billion in value-added to the state's economy through the arts supporting over 96,000 jobs - more jobs than the state's beer, papermaking and biotech industries.***

Since the state's shut down starting in mid-March, Wisconsin's arts and cultural sector has lost over **\$28 million**, according to Americans for the Arts. Nationally, the arts sector has lost **\$6.7 billion**. Over 2/3 of people who make their living as independent creative workers are not able to do so right now. These numbers are will grow by leaps and bounds as the pandemic and shutdowns go on.

A strong creative economy is an essential component in jump-starting recovery efforts and moving on from the current crisis. In that spirit, ***we join the national call to ask for the following specific relief efforts focused on our state's creative sector:***

- **Expand and recapitalize the Paycheck Protection Program**, including: provide new opportunities through the RESTART Act, include a second round of applications for those that have exhausted initial PPP funds, remove restrictions and burdens for self-employed applicants, eliminate the 500-employee cap, and provide dedicated funding for nonprofit organizations. Expand eligibility and allowable costs and continue to provide clear loan forgiveness guidance.
- **Fully fund the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program** and eliminate the \$1,000 per employee cap imposed by SBA, so businesses with one or very few employees can access funds.
- **Provide streamlined, low-interest forgivable loans** to assist microbusinesses (self-employed, sole proprietors, partnerships, freelancers, and LLCs) with zero or few employees/low net business income that have documented fixed business expenses such as rent/mortgage interest, utilities, business insurance, and debt service and are not adequately served by current programs.
- **Provide loan forgiveness for nonprofits** through the Main Street Lending Program and the Economic Stabilization Fund to support payroll costs and fixed overhead costs and ensure eligibility for nonprofit employers with more than 500 employees that have been left out of current relief provisions.
- **Expand the duration of pandemic unemployment benefits** and improve guidelines for implementation so that artists and other gig economy workers with mixed income sources (such as W-2 and 1099) receive full support rather than unfairly being limited to partial benefits. Update Disaster Unemployment Assistance to ensure support for artists and other gig economy workers in the long term.
- **Increase charitable giving** by removing the \$300 cap on the above-the-line tax incentive for nonitemizers and allowing all taxpayers to claim the deduction on both 2019 and 2020 tax returns. Maintain the CARES Act removal of the Adjusted Gross Income limitation on deductibility of charitable gifts for 2021 and beyond.
- **Provide assistance for single- and multi-employer pension funds** to protect artists' retirement security.

- **Expand access to health coverage and care** by including a one-time special enrollment period in relief legislation and removing access and affordability barriers to health coverage for artists and arts workers that have atypical employment structures.
- **Support the U.S. creative economy**, which is growing at twice the rate of most other sectors, by supporting proposals in the PLACE Act (S.3232) to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Public Work and Economic Development Act, the Small Business Act, the New Markets Tax Credit, the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, and the Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to improve access to existing federal workforce development opportunities for creative businesses and creative workers.

The arts sector is innovating to provide online arts experiences and distance learning opportunities, preparing to serve audiences when quarantine orders are lifted, and will be an essential partner in jump-starting national, state, and local efforts during and after COVID-19. The federal government should support ongoing creative sector activity:

- **Support a complete education for all students** through federal education funding and distance learning resources that will increase the capacity of state and local education agencies to ensure equitable access to arts education as part of a well-rounded education for all learners amidst the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.
- **Adopt an emergency broadband benefit** to ensure that all people, no matter their income or location, have access to high speed broadband. Ensuring connectivity enables more equitable participation in artistic, educational, and cultural activity taking place online.
- **Approve substantial funding** for the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and Institute of Museum and Library Services, as they administer dedicated COVID-19 relief to address the unique needs of cultural organizations.
- **Maximize the impact of new and continued funding** for the National Endowment for the Arts beyond the \$75 million investment in the CARES Act by making COVID-19 relief grants available to all eligible organizations as defined in the NEA's authorization statute (20 U.S.C. §954); expanding waivers for public/private matching requirements to apply to all active FY19 and FY20 NEA grant awards; and, allowing current grantees to re-allocate funding for general operating support to address COVID-19 economic losses. Enable national nonprofit organizations to subgrant federal arts funds to support community-based arts and culture organizations, agencies, and artists to assist in efficiently supporting the nation's cultural infrastructure and workforce.
- **Enact policies to ensure rapid processing of artist visas** by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and consulates to shield U.S.-based arts petitioners from the delays and costs of reprogramming international events.

The arts and the work of artists are integral to reimagining and reopening public gathering places and work spaces. Federal policy should support the arts in safety and infrastructure policies that guide the ways we bring people together:

- **Support the arts and work of artists as essential infrastructure investments.** Building a strong cultural infrastructure, creating art that enriches our lives, and using arts-based approaches to public works and community development initiatives will leave a legacy that defines our society for generations to come.
- **Provide eligibility for arts facilities** in infrastructure investments to renovate, refurbish, and adapt to post-COVID-19 public health protocols.

- **Include the arts sector in consideration of public health and workplace safety policies** to protect the health of arts workers, support the needs of arts venues, and ensure public confidence in gathering again.
- **Ensure the arts are considered in business interruption insurance and liability policy discussions**, as the policy outcomes of both areas will influence the near-term reopening plans and the long-term viability of American arts and cultural organizations.

Creative businesses and workers are vital contributors to the economy, vitality, and wellbeing of the communities they serve, in every corner of the state and across the country. Thank you for your leadership and for supporting investment in a strong creative sector to benefit Wisconsin's people, businesses and communities.

Signed (to date):tq

Arts for All Wisconsin	statewide
Arts Wisconsin	statewide
Association of Wisconsin Symphony Orchestras	statewide
League of Wisconsin Municipalities	statewide
Wisconsin Art Education Association	statewide
Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets	statewide
Wisconsin Music Educators Association	statewide
Wisconsin School Music Association	statewide
Wisconsin Visual Artists	statewide
Wisconsin Writers Association	statewide
Adams Community Theatre	Adams
Northern Lakes Center for the Arts	Amery
Fox Cities Performing Arts Center	Appleton
Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra	Appleton
Arcadia Arts Initiative INC	Arcadia
The Garland City Consort Cooperative	Ashland
Circus World Museum	Baraboo

Helen's Daughters Studio	Baraboo
Lake Superior Big Top Chautauqua	Bayfield
Beloit Civic Theatre	Beloit
Beloit Janesville Symphony Orchestra	Beloit/Janesville
Tamlyn Akins Art & Design	Black Earth
Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts	Brookfield
Chequamegon Children's Theater	Cable/Drummond
Big Lake Orchestra	Chequamegon Bay
Chequamegon Bay Arts Council	Chequamegon Bay
OneFest Ltd.	Chippewa Falls
Chippewa Valley Cultural Association, Inc.	Chippewa Falls
Valley Art Association/Valley Art Gallery	Chippewa Falls
Birder Studio of Performing Arts	De Pere
Folklore Village	Dodgeville
Third Avenue Playhouse, Inc.	Door County
Door Shakespeare	Door County
Peninsula Players Theatre	Door County
Write On Door County Inc	Door County
Francis Hardy Center for the Arts, Inc	Door County
Birch Creek Music Performance Center	Door County
The Clearing Folk School	Door County
Peninsula Music Festival	Door County
Peninsula School of Art	Door County

Northern Sky Theater	Door County
Tangled Up in Hue LLC	Eau Claire
Chippewa Valley Museum	Eau Claire
Pablo Center at the Confluence	Eau Claire
Visit Eau Claire	Eau Claire
Chippewa Valley Jazz Orchestra	Eau Claire
Chippewa Valley Blues Society	Eau Claire
Chippewa Valley Theatre Guild	Eau Claire
Children's Museum of Eau Claire	Eau Claire
Ambient Inks	Eau Claire
Chippewa Valley Symphony Orchestra	Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire	Eau Claire
L.E.Phillips Memorial Public Library	Eau Claire
Blue Ox Music Festival	Eau Claire
Chippewa Valley Writers Guild	Eau Claire
Edgerton Performing Arts Center	Edgerton
Thelma Sadoff Center for the Arts	Fond du Lac
Fort Atkinson Arts Council	Fort Atkinson
Frederic Arts	Frederic
City of Green Bay Public Arts Commission	Green Bay
Mosaic Arts, Inc.	Green Bay
Katie Ries Studio	Green Bay
Weidner Center for the Performing Arts	Green Bay

Green Lake Festival of Music	Green Lake
Thrasher Opera House	Green Lake
The Park Center	Hayward
Grandview Historic Site	Hollandale
The Phipps Center for the Arts	Hudson
Janesville Performing Arts Center	Janeville
Kenosha Community Foundation	Kenosha
Kenosha Creative Space, Inc.	Kenosha
Little Puppet Company	Kenosha
Weber Center for the Performing Arts	La Crosse
La Crosse Community Theatre	La Crosse
La Crosse Symphony Orchestra	La Crosse
Pump House Regional Arts Center	La Crosse
Land O Lakes Arts	Land O' Lakes
TAPIT/new works, Inc.	Madison
Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society	Madison
Children's Theatre of Madison	Madison
Overture Center for the Arts	Madison
Madison Youth Choirs	Madison
Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras	Madison
Arts + Literature Laboratory	Madison
Forward Theater Company	Madison
International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local 251	Madison

Opera for the Young, Inc	Madison
Overture Center for the Arts	Madison
Spot Filmworks, Ltd.	Madison
Madison Children's Museum	Madison
Make Music Madison	Madison
First Act Children's Theatre	Madison
Full Compass Systems	Madison
Wisconsin Union Theater, UW-Madison	Madison
Capitol Civic Centre, Inc.	Manitowoc
Lakeshore Artists Guild	Manitowoc
The Mabel Tainter Center for the Arts	Menomonie
Arohana Arts Academy	Middleton
Arts @ Large, Inc.	Milwaukee
TimeSlips Creative Storytelling, Inc.	Milwaukee
Black Arts MKE Inc	Milwaukee
Lynn Lucius Consulting	Milwaukee
Concord Chamber Orchestra	Milwaukee
Florentine Opera	Milwaukee
Ex Fabula	Milwaukee
Imagine MKE	Milwaukee
Lynden Sculpture Garden	Milwaukee
Next Act Theatre, Inc.	Milwaukee
Pink Umbrella Theatre Company	Milwaukee

Wisconsin Conservatory of Music	Milwaukee
Mad Rogues Theatre Company	Milwaukee
Milwaukee Theatre Alliance	Milwaukee
Aura Theatre Collective	Milwaukee
Milwaukee Artist Resources Network	Milwaukee
Milwaukee Ballet	Milwaukee
Kohl's Wild Theater	Milwaukee
Milwaukee Film	Milwaukee
ArtWorks for Milwaukee	Milwaukee
Guardian Fine Art Fine Art Services	Milwaukee
Latino Arts Inc.	Milwaukee
RDImage LLC	Milwaukee
Milwaukee Repertory Theater	Milwaukee
Walker's Point Center for the Arts	Milwaukee
Brass Bell Music	Milwaukee
53212Presents	Milwaukee
Charles Allis / Villa Terrace Art Museums	Milwaukee
Organic Arts	Milwaukee
The Constructivists	Milwaukee
Wild Space Dance Company	Milwaukee
Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts	Mineral Point
Campanile Center for the Arts	Minocqua
Mt. Horeb Area Arts Association	Mt. Horeb

Cultural Fine Arts and Jazz Society	Oshkosh
The Grand Opera House	Oshkosh
Paine Art Center and Gardens	Oshkosh
Rountree Gallery	Platteville
River Arts Inc.	Prairie du Sac
Mallory Gallery	Racine
Racine Arts Council	Racine
Racine Children's Museum	Racine
Racine Symphony Orchestra	Racine
Racine Theatre Guild	Racine
Choral Arts Society of Southeastern Wisconsin	Racine/Kenosha
CAL Center Presents Inc	Reedsburg
Reedsburg ArtsLink	Reedsburg
Wormfarm Institute	Reedsburg
Reedsburg Public Art Committee	Reedsburg
CAB - Community Arts Base	River Falls
St. Croix Festival Theatre	St. Croix Falls
Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra	Sheboygan
John Michael Kohler Arts Center	Sheboygan
Above & Beyond Children's Museum	Sheboygan
Spring Green Area Arts Coalition	Sheboygan
Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters	Sinsinawa
LuCille Tack Center for the Arts	Spencer

Wisconsin Northwest Heritage Passage	Spooner
American Players Theatre	Spring Green
Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra, Inc.	Stevens Point
CREATE Portage County	Stevens Point
Arts Management Program, UW-Stevens Point	Stevens Point
WideSpot Performing Arts Center	Stockholm
Superior Council for the Arts	Superior
Three Lakes Center for the Arts	Three Lakes
Hamilton Wood Type & Printing Museum	Two Rivers
Vernon County Economic Development Corporation	Vernon County
Spring City Family Music Center	Waukesha
White House of Music	Waukesha
Waupaca Community Arts Board	Waupaca
Waupun Fine Arts, Inc.	Waupun
The Grand Theater	Wausau
Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum	Wausau
Wausau Symphony & Band	Wausau
McComb/Bruchs Performing Arts Center	Wautoma
West Bend Children's Theatre, Inc.	West Bend
Westby Area Performing Arts Center	Westby
Weyauwega Arts	Weyauwega
Whitewater Arts Alliance	Whitewater
Arts Council of South Wood County	Wisconsin Rapids
Wisconsin Rapids Community Theatre, Inc.	Wisconsin Rapids

Central Wisconsin Cultural Center

Wisconsin Rapids