



Ronald Klain
Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

February 23, 2021

Dear Mr. Klain:

Thank you for your public service during this time of unprecedented challenge for our nation. We write to express our appreciation for the steps the Administration is taking to implement the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program. As yet, the program has not opened for applications. We urge the White House to provide whatever approvals necessary to the Small Business Administration so that the program can begin delivering urgently needed assistance to our members.

We are representatives of the cinema, live theater, live music, and performing arts organizations and venues industries – businesses and organizations that hit hardest by the pandemic. Our members cannot sustain the status quo much longer and many are facing imminent permanent closure or bankruptcy. Many of our businesses and organizations have been completely shuttered since March 2020, or have been unable to operate at a viable capacity. We are strained on all sides by obligations to lenders, landlords, and vendors—obligations that we cannot continue to defer indefinitely. We have exhausted relief received under the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans. Many of us cannot even obtain new lines of credit or other capital due to the level of distress we are experiencing. The Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program is the only mode of relief that will help us, and we are desperate for this program to open.

We applaud the efforts made so far by the Small Business Administration to respond to stakeholder inquiries and publish guidance. However, we fear that any further delays in the application process will mean that the program is too late to save the very businesses and organizations it was intended to rescue, as well as the hundreds of thousands of jobs we provide. We urge the White House to act swiftly to address any roadblocks so that the program can begin operating fully.

Your work on behalf of our industries will be the difference between our survival and the permanent loss of our country's beloved arts, culture, and entertainment institutions. On behalf of our hundreds of thousands of employees nationwide, we thank you for your continued support and assistance to our industries.

A Coalition of Non-Profit Professional Theaters
Association of Performing Arts Professionals (APAP)
Coalition of Performing Arts Centers
Dance/USA
League of American Orchestras
League of Historic American Theatres
National Association of Theatre Owners (NATO)
National Independent Talent Organization (NITO)
National Independent Venue Association (NIVA)
OPERA America
Performing Arts Managers and Agents Coalition (PAMAC)
Performing Arts Alliance
Preservation Hall Foundation
Theatre Communications Group