



United Arts Fund Check In Call

May 26, 2020

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. EDT

Link to recorded call (please do not share outside of the UAF Network):

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o_PZ2F1oAtHHc8JbLWfsAYAz64TAyEkr/view?usp=sharing

I. Welcome

A. Ground Rules

- i. Do not speak for a community that you are not a part of.
- ii. Try to assume best intentions.
- iii. Please do not share the details of any conversation(s) outside of this room. We can agree to share what you have learned but not what is said.
- iv. Agree to disagree.
- v. Celebrate our commonalities and respect our diversity.
- vi. Aim for two other people to speak before you speak again.
- vii. If you feel something, share it.
- viii. Be honest, candid, and respectful.

II. Reopening of arts organizations

Denver, following the state guidelines and orders. Making it even more restrictive or ask for a special modification. First org that received a modification was the botanical gardens. Timed entry and maximum people allowed – 200-250 on site. Order has been extended through June 1, still minimum of 10 people. Restaurants are connected to arts groups. Restaurants can open at 50% of capacity but no more than 50 people. Own and operate 5 venues. Creating document that is going to city attorney's office to provide guidance to the sector at large. Partnering with department of public health.

NY state – in three counties that got early ok to start phase 1 opening. Stuck in the middle because part of it is retail. Gallery is retail that can open to curbside pick-up. Opening in a modified fashion for first Friday. Eliminating refreshments, requiring masks. Concerned about performing arts. Partnering with Community Foundation to do needs assessment and also discuss what people will be able to do.

Chicago – have sector representation with arts service organizations. Working with a marketplace to provide pool for PPE supplies so that masks can be offered. Don't have a union to represent dancers, arts service organization is having to act as a union for dancers. There might be federal or state compliance issues for many of stakeholders. What's the role of the venue vs producer? WeWork space offers 14 desks in 900 sq ft. Issues of administrative space have to be functional.

NC – modified phase 2 – safer at home. 10 people for groups. Not able to offer performance venues. Phase 3 will likely be operating at 50% capacity. One venue will not open until it's 100% capacity because it's not financially viable. Not able to host events at their building. Hoping to be able to bring summer camps back online in reduced capacity. Groups have to be siloed and segregated from each other. Enormous cost of providing PPE and

sanitization requirements. Cleaning that has to happen when space changes over. Construct a plan and cost estimates with reduced capacity and increased cost.

ArtsFund working with state and city to do reopening and recovery needs assessment.

Portland, been following the governor's guidelines. Multnomah Co has not gone into phase 1. Venues are closed until phase 3 or 4. There aren't metrics for infection rates or projection of virus. In conversations on the Hill to support venues at the Fed level.

Discipline considerations – what a museum might do is different from what a symphony might do. Orgs in public buildings will be different from what private orgs might do.

Discipline folks are following industry standards – where do these exist? Can we get these? Operate a building with tenants – will follow the guidelines but if a tenant organization wants to do something different like hold classes that as building managers should we regulate operations? Museum association has put out guidelines, but not other performance or classroom specific guidelines.

Specifically looking for any national funding for performing arts because they're going to disproportionately be affected than museums or visual arts. UAF is funded by county – cannot honor second half of their contract – this is how GOS grants are funded. If county breaches contract, they'll have to breach grant contracts. Trying to find avenues to support the organizations. How do we keep these orgs open?

Durham operates a city owned facility – orgs use the building for rehearsals, offices, performances, and then orgs that use the building for performances and presentations. Going to have to require year-round tenants to follow same guidelines Arts Council will have to follow. Can't have safety procedures that apply to them but not to the tenants.

How many have reached out to local senators to get appetite for including performing arts specifically in the HEREOS Act. Going to be multi-million lift to keep everyone afloat.

Advisory Council for city of Hartford – have the guidelines from city/state, and they are looking for input from the sector. Is anyone sitting on an advisory group? Have you come up with recommendations? How do we organize about distributing PPE etc?

Reopening surveys – approached by grantee organizations to coordinate single or general opening to send to arts participants. Could the arts council coordinate a survey to do this? Cultural assessment groups are doing this in Providence.

Grant system is developed under city council – proposing to city council to move grants to pay for GOS – even if programming isn't happening. Project support grants, asking for extensions on those.

Easing up on anything that is program qualifiers. Board rescinded 5 contracts that had been unsigned and unreturned.

Arts groups aren't medical professionals, not our place to provide recommendations. provided scenarios, but can't take up liability.

Very simple applications.

Make an awards announcement by mid-June for FY21. Going ahead with reviewing recommendations from panel, but won't make recommendations. Will take moment to move announcement to Sept or October. Will give an opportunity to see what the next few months holds.

How else are board members expressing to UAFs about rescinding grants. Still waiting to hear from county to see if current contracts can be funded. Exec committee made the decision without talking to allocations panel, and without ED blessing. Partially funded through the UAF. Contract is dated and leaves room for cancelling funding. Took advantage of it when contracts weren't signed.

Questions/Comments from the Chat:

- Does any community have a path forward for performing arts venues to reopen?
- Kentucky is in a wait-and-see situation.
- Denver Arts & Venues : Working on one and happy to share once we get the stamp of approval
- TRG and American League of Orchestras are good resources also, Sorry TCG ... theater communications group
- American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA) is a good place to reach out to around dance / ballet along with DanceUSA
- Durham Arts Council also operates a City owned building with arts tenants
- Can you do a community arts recovery challenge to raise new funds?
- I think landlords do have responsibility to be sure state and local guidelines are being followed. These will supercede industry standards but the industry standards will be useful. Also, building usage should have consistent policies
- Would love to know how folks are thinking about GOS grant decisions for organizations that may not have programming for half their year. I realize this may be a separate call!
- We, Denver Arts & Venues, own and operate five different venues. Each one operates differently. For the one in which we have resident companies, we work a bit differently than the ones that do not
- We work with resident companies to develop strategies while we design the strategies for the other venues
- and as a follow up, how is programming (grantees business over next six months), playing a role in decision making when dollars are very limited
- We are going to leverage the results from our Needs Assessments Survey and Interviews to use for an Our Towns Grant from NYSCA/NEA. This info will also be given to the Community Foundation to see if they can leverage it with a foundation of Venture Capitalists (my understanding).
- ArtsWave is Health & Vibrancy Check in lieu of regular review and will triage support. We will over-invest in some for a set of reasons (both high impact and high need) and pull back on others that are in good shape.
- ArtsMemphis is planning to distribute an arts & culture patron survey later this week to gauge readiness to re-engage with arts organizations.
- We have completed a survey and interviews
- I serve on a board that was asked by the state to provide guidance if anyone wants to reach out, i am happy to share (Michael)
- For those that have mentioned working on surveys now or have just done them, if you'd be willing to share them we'd appreciate it. Thank you!
- Are folks changing the way funds are awarded? ie a percentage of lasts year rather than awarding based on an application and set of criteria

- I am happy to share our Needs Assessment Survey with the group. We are coupling the survey with interviews with our GOS recipients as well, asking two questions (as per the request of the County Govt): What have they done to cut costs? and How do they use GOS money?
- Given the call to recind some grants that were not fully contracted, I'm interested to hear what UAF board members are expressing regarding your meeting your missions for the community, the cultural sector and sustaining your own organizations?
- We are also looking for language to provide to individuals with emergency fund grants about taxability (or not) of grant funds.
- We have distributed approximately \$35,000 in individual artist relief awards. We have been told by tax folks that this is not taxable.