

## IMAGINE 2020 Artist Assistance Fund – Applicant Report

### March 27, 2020

Denver Arts & Venues (DAV) created the IMAGINE 2020 Artist Assistance Fund to support individual artists who are experiencing immediate, unforeseen emergency needs due to COVID-19. Through the IMAGINE 2020 Artist Assistance Fund, DAV allocated **\$156,260** towards grants of up to \$1,000 to individual artists who live in Denver whose incomes are being adversely affected due to cancellation of events, classes, performances, and other creative work.

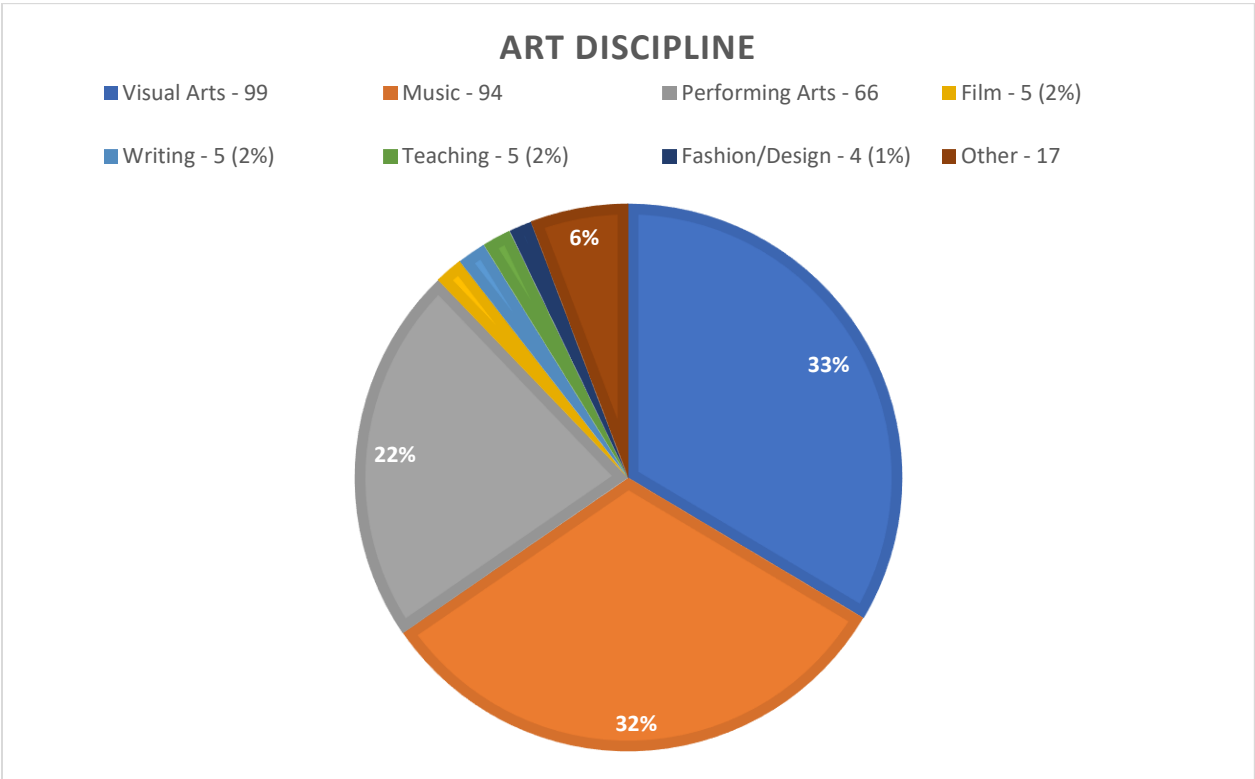
Within 12 hours we received **295** applications that reflect:

- **227** responses from Denver County residents
- **68** responses outside of Denver County
- **Discipline breakdown:**
  - **99** – Visual Arts/Design (i.e. painting, drawing, textiles, photography, sculpture, glass, print, tattoo)
  - **94** – Musician (i.e. teacher, DJ, performers, sound production)
  - **66** – Performing Arts (i.e. teacher, dance, theatre, performers, technicians, design, spoken word, comedy)
  - **5** – Film/Video
  - **5** – Creative Writing
  - **5** – General Teaching Artist
  - **4** – Fashion/Design
  - **17** – Other (i.e. florists, estheticians, hairdressers, cosmetology)
- Minimum funding needed to cover immediate expenses in the next **30-60 days** (i.e. food, rent/mortgage support for studio and/or home, general bills, childcare, insurance, medical, loans, etc.):
  - Total need was **\$534,198**
  - Ranging from a minimum of **\$400** up to **\$6,000 per request**
  - Average ask was **\$1,829**
  - **Maximum grant award \$1,000** per applicant
- **Financial distress levels responses:**
  - **27** - Financial Strain (loss of income impacts ability to continue current lifestyle, unable to purchase items necessary for business/creative pursuit)
  - **120** - Financial Distress (limited savings, unable to pay all my bills)
  - **148** - Severe Financial Distress (limited to no savings, unable to cover basic needs such as food and rent, financially responsible for family members or others)
- **95** respondents had additional sources of income
- **200** respondents had NO additional sources of income
- **113** respondents have a financial responsibility for other people

**\*As of 4.6.2020 funding was being processed for 145 applicants, totaling \$118,050 dollars.**

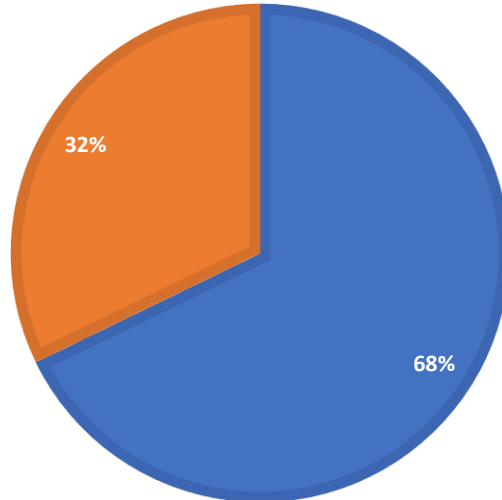
**UPDATE:** The IMAGINE 2020 Artist Assistance Fund inspired a partnership between Denver Arts & Venues, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Colorado Creative Industries and RedLine Contemporary Art Center. This partnership has renamed the original fund as the Colorado Artist Relief Fund and it increases the \$156,050 City allocation to \$366,050 in total grant funds to be disbursed throughout Colorado. This is a new partnership with *continued relief support*, but not a new fund.

**DATA FROM ALL 295 APPLICANTS**



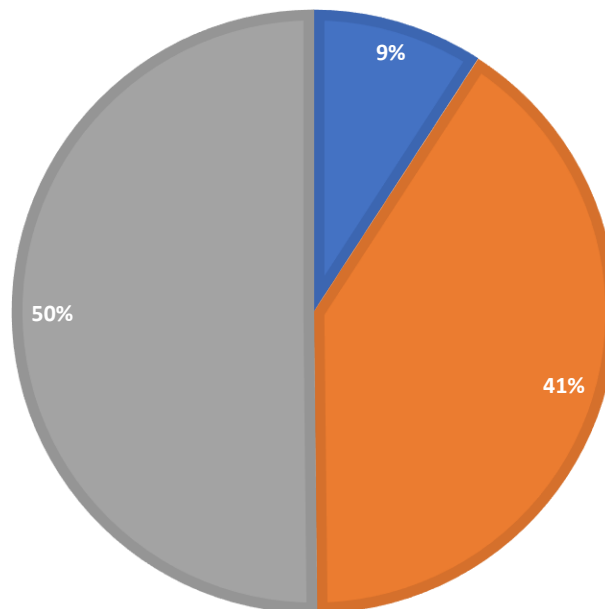
## CURRENT LEVEL OF INCOME

■ No addtl. source of income - 200      ■ Some income - 95



## LEVEL OF FINANCIAL NEED

■ Financial Strain - 27      ■ Financial Distress - 120      ■ Severe Financial Distress - 148



## COVID-19 STORIES

**Please describe how your income is being adversely affected by Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) due to cancellation of events, classes, performances, and other creative work.**

*-As of the evening of March 13, all of my musical interactions have ceased... I cannot teach vocal lessons in person and I cannot rehearse with my bandmates. I cannot make money singing at Church, because there are no services. It's difficult to even write this. We work our whole careers to be financially viable as musicians and it just went away instantly.*

*-Canceled events that I sell my paintings at, first Friday art walk on Santa Fe, had to cancel classes I teach, event flyers I had work for canceled their orders for someone who does freelance work in graphic design and as an artist I work hard to get the jobs I do and sell what I paint. I also support my father who cannot work because of health issues he has.*

*-The Health department has suspended operation of tattoo shop for the next 30 days. This is my only source of income and my livelihood. Tax season is the 3 months of the year the majority of us tattoo artists make our income for the whole year (March- April). Cancellations in the proceeding weeks have turned COVID-19 very real and very serious for anyone in my industry.*

*-I have had all of my gigs get cancelled, including a weekly residency, 2 monthly residencies, and approx. 15 other gigs. As a full-time musician (and manager of that project), my funds and the funds of my band come from gigging almost exclusively. Also, simultaneously to COVID-19 an abroad landlord has illegally evicted me so I am seeking housing.*

*-I work teaching all types of art to teens and young adults as a form of suicide prevention. I have 5 groups a week working with high risk people in our community. Some days I'm in high schools, day shelters for the homeless, and spaces for LGBTQ population. I love my work and it is my main source of income, for now all groups are postponed until further notice.*

**We are collecting information on how our community is responding to the COVID-19 outbreak through their creative endeavors. Please share any information you would like us to know here.**

*-Right now, I am frozen with fear. I want to respond with strength and creativity, but right now, I can't bring myself to think outside of today. I would like to think I'll take commission paintings and work in my garden until the sun returns on us, but I'm living in absolute fear that the trade and business I've worked so hard to establish over eleven years has been completely decimated before my eyes.*

*-We will offer an acoustic duo mini concert on Facebook as soon as possible. Live at Jack's is offering disinfected space.*

*-Volunteering my services to help organizations spread the word on important info to the community re: Covid-19*

*-Please look out for artists and venues. This is absolutely devastating to the entertainment industry.*

*-Here at home we have continued to create. I have been staying active, while working on a book. We've played around with some photo shoots and are working on releasing some content; just so our friends can enjoy it virtually. Although this time has been difficult and stressful, we have bunkered down into our self-quarantine and managed to create beautiful ideas and opportunities, that can be enjoyed from the comfort of our homes for now but can evolve into amazing creations to follow after all this is settled down. Thank you for the opportunity to continue to create.*

*-All I can say is that I am incredibly thankful that you guys have this fund. Every one of my friends who works in a creative industry is suffering right now. Shoots are cancelled left and right and businesses are not looking to make videos or hire independent marketing/media work right now.*

*-We have created both an artist relief fund and an artist database to assist in finding non-performance related jobs. We want to help other artists, but I'm in the same situation, I am not sure where rent will come from when my limited savings run out. I'm not sure when our events will start to pick up again. I'm scared just like the rest of the artists out there.*

*-This has been such a hard time for us. In the matter of only a few days, the losses we have incurred are truly not even measurable. We feel like everything we've worked for started to crumble overnight. We were working towards saving for a house (took, many, many years) and when we felt like we could finally get there this year, everything got wiped and debt is stacking. We know that many are in the same boat which breaks our hearts because we know so many amazing artists. Our community is strong, but this is hard and will be.*

*-I believe in still creating as much as possible throughout this. I believe that art provides a silver lining in times of despair. I have been creating a mural in Globeville (non-commission) all week. The piece has a shining/glowing Pachuco cross in the center, with a chain of hope surrounding it. The feedback has been that people love it and need art at this time. "Live" video streaming of the process has enabled me to share the work.*

*-I am so thankful to see that IMAGINE 2020 is taking this initiative. It has been scary as an independent contractor to know what is next in these hard times. I live solely off of gigs and my art form is social, leaving me with little to no assurance about what I will do immediately to sustain. Thank you for your quick action, response, and consideration of artists in the community.*

*-I am raising funds to support other artists who are affected by this crisis. I am also co-managing this response with five other artists: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/denver-metro-area-artist-relief-fund>.*

*-I am working with Warm Cookies of the Revolution to provide inspirational and informational creative digital "gift baskets" to the community. We are aiming to release a creative resource on April 19th. We are also fundraising to be able to pay artists as much as \$500 for digital contributions.*

*-In addition to seeking out support here, I am doing my best to create resources and opportunities for fellow creatives. Thank you for this resource!*

*-We are trying to find ways to work on developing new plays online while this is going on. But there is no pay for that. My friends and I are all gig workers, so we don't have paid leave to fall back on. We survive by working for multiple arts organizations at the same time, and all of our employees are closing their doors for at least the next two months.*

*-All I can do now is work from home, and try to make plans to have a website for my music up soon, so that I can sell sheet music, albums, merchandising, etc... because right now I don't know what else to do and have no idea when the next time I'll be able to work and make money. I've been a professional freelance musician for over 15 years, and I don't know how I'm going to make money until I can get out and play music again.*

*-Currently I'm beginning to feel stressed about my finances, I won't be able to go back to work until schools start back in session. I'm a paid contractor through a nonprofit and they have offered no payment. I'm a type 1 diabetic so I'm at high risk for contracting COVID-19, so I'm*

*unable to work anywhere or be around other people. I'm a mother of small children so that also is a challenge. We are making lots of art, trying to stay positive.*