

**UPDATES related to COVID-19 Impact**

**April 2020**

**Organization:** City of San Antonio Department of Arts & Culture

**City, State:** San Antonio, TX

**Organization leader:** Debbie Racca-Sittre

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Our Dept operations and Grants to nonprofits are funded 100% with HOT. We have a Public Art Team funded by the 1% of capital program dollars. We reduced our budget in total by $2.6M. Our arts agency grants have been cut by 20% and our dept budget by 30%. 85% of our HOT funded city staff have been furloughed thru 7/31/20.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Most of our agencies have also furloughed employees (80%)

**Organization:** Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy

**City, State:** Minneapolis, MN

**Organization leader:** Gulgun Kayim

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

The Mayor has announced a city wide hiring and pay freeze, suspended budget planning for 2021 and frozen existing department commitments for 2020. My office has been asked to hold transition planning for a new Dept of Cultural Affairs. This included transitioning staff that are currently paid from grants onto the general fund and identifying a dedicated revenue stream to support local arts needs and creative workers. In the short term, I expect a 30% cut to my budget and will loose at least two staff members and some programming dollars. That said, we are busier than ever, reallocating flexible dollars to provide Gap Funding: emergency relief support to self-employed artists and small arts organizations with budgets under $400,000. Priority spending is targeted to creative populations with the lowest pay and employment (self-employed BIPOC/women artists and creative workers) and organizations in racially concentrated areas of poverty (the city's cultural districts). Our resources are just not enough to meet the scale of need.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

The impact has been devastating on our creative ecosystem, hitting especially hard mid-level arts organizations (budgets at 1 million and fewer than 20 employees) with little flexibility, fixed operating costs and little or no cash reserves to cushion the blow. Performing arts are hit hardest - 35% of the city's nonprofit arts revenues - as well as festivals and other event based arts. The city's creative workforce is in great difficulty (28,000 creative workers - 5% of the city's workforce and 81,038 regionally), particularly BIPOC/ women self-employed creatives in the gig economy who have applied in the greatest numbers for unemployment insurance assistance and are still waiting to see the UI dollars from a state application system which is unprepared for 1099 workers. The city has a $5.5 billion creative economy (9 times greater than sports). We are looking at losing significant sales tax revenues which will impact our State Arts Legacy funding stream - current projections are they will be reduced by 20% though I expect this number to go up as the crisis continues.

**Organization:** ArtsMemphis

**City, State:** Memphis, TN

**Organization leader:** Elizabeth Rouse

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

ArtsMemphis, the primary local arts agency/United Arts Fund for Shelby County, TN, is experiencing income loss due to the cancelation of primary spring fundraiser, postponement of large fundraising event and lack of private contributions as planned during March and April and anticipated through June. We've been able to raise $155,000 from 4 foundations with the largest contribution from Kresge to partner with Music Export Memphis (who brings to the table $130,000) to offer an Artist Emergency Fund. Presently, this fund is offering $500 easy to access, unrestricted dollars for artists of all types who have lost income.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

ArtsMemphis deployed a survey on March 18, 2020 to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on artists and cultural organizations in Shelby County. The purpose of the survey is to determine how ArtsMemphis and our community can best help and connect artists and organizations to resources. We will continue to accept responses and will update the data regularly. Responses (as of 4.13.20): Artists: 200 Organizations: 61 Organization survey data indicated the following: Total projected loss of income for March 2020: $1,191,958 Total anticipated loss of income April-June 2020 if regulated social distancing persists: $7,412,880 Number of individual artists in or affiliated with an organization who have been or will be financially impacted: 1623 Number of administrative staff in an organization who have been or will be financially impacted: 241 Survey Respondent’s Stated Current Needs (outside of unrestricted support): Financial/long term crisis planning Fundraising/donor communications during this time Developing and promoting meaningful virtual experiences Engaging students virtually Health insurance Mental health/therapists Opportunities for staff at all levels to connect with colleagues outside of the organization At-Home internet for staff Cleaning supplies for facility Note: ArtsMemphis has used these responses to determine the focus of weekly Arts Sector Support Calls, which occur every Thursday at 4pm. Topics covered include: Human Resources, SBA Loans, Development and Communications, IT Best Practices. Survey Respondent’s Stated Future Needs: Marketing when things rebound “How will we know when it’s ok to resume?” Updated regulations for events post-COVID-1 Artist survey data indicated the following: Total estimated loss of income for March 2020: $513,779 Average Percentage of Income lost from inside of Shelby County: 85% Average Percentage of Income lost from outside of Shelby County: 15% Total anticipated loss of income April-June 2020: $1,467,506

**Organization:** Riverside Arts Council

**City, State:** Riverside, CA

**Organization leader:** Patrick Brien

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Because the school districts are shut down, we aren't able to offer work to our artist providers. We are with one district that is allowing virtual arts classes. But there are 18 artist providers out of work now. Our arts in corrections programs in three state prisons was also on hold for a couple of weeks until we were able to get alternative programming put in place. Now those artist providers are being paid. Our organization has not seen a reduction in its general operating revenue, as that comes from grants. We will see what the future holds, however.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Riverside's arts and culture ecosystem is being severely rocked. Many small theatre companies are going to have a hard time recovering, as will the small galleries. The larger institutions will survive. It's the small ones that I'm worried about. The city's arts funding mechanism will be in jeopardy, as well. That could be crippling to some small groups.

**Organization:** Baltimore Office of Promotion & The Arts

**City, State:** Baltimore, MD

**Organization leader:** Donna Drew Sawyer

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

BOPA has been able to maintain staff but key positions such as Public Art Specialist and Development Direct cannot be filled. Sponsors for our 2020 major events are in a wait and see mode and corporate and philanthropic fundraising is a challenge

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Baltimore is blessed with an entrepreneurial creative class. Loss of income for these less traditionally employed artists is significant. BOPA has partnered with 20 other art organizations and artists to create the Baltimore Artist Emergency Relief Fund to supply small grants to sustain this important group. We are advocating city government for increased investment in the arts as an essential component of the COVID-19 response and recovery.

**Organization:** Mesa Department of Arts and Culture/Mesa Arts Center

**City, State:** Mesa, AZ

**Organization leader:** Cindy Ornstein

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

All Mesa Arts and Culture Department venues are closed until further notice, and planning for closure through Sept. 30 unless health crisis improves, in which case we'll gradually phase programming back in as feasible. Estimated loss of revenues from closures is $4.7M (with corresponding savings in program/facility costs due to closure), and personnel identified for temporary Reduction in Workforce during closure totals $710K, but we are actively working to place as many of the FT positions as possible in COVID response roles within the City.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Great distress among arts and culture organizations of all sizes. All are closed through April, and some have extended into May and June. Working hard to keep staff, but some have begun layoffs. Most non-profits applying for PPP, with mixed results. Great concern about all the unknowns and the future of our sector

**Organization:** Arts & Science Council of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Inc. (ASC)

**City, State:** Charlotte, NC

**Organization leader:** Katherine Mooring

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

ASC began voluntary remote working on March 12 and moved to mandatory remote working on March 26. In order to ensure that our grant commitments to individuals and organizations continue over the coming months, we have suspended some of our education initiatives impacted by prolonged school closings and furloughed/reduced hours for staff members who support those efforts. ASC’s leadership team members are also taking significant salary reductions (ranging from 10-50%) to minimize the need for further cuts impacting junior and mid-level staff. In the wake of a failed sales tax referendum in the fall, ASC had requested significant funding increases from both City and County governments, and are now being advised that flat funding is likely best case scenario. Absent a dramatic shift in private sector support, this will significantly reduce the dollars available in FY21 to support grantmaking and sector support.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Nearly all cultural nonprofits in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County have been negatively impacted by COVID-19, which ASC knows from an ongoing impact survey we are conducting. Spring is typically the busiest and most important time of year for most cultural organizations from a financial standpoint. Initial estimates indicate these organizations will lose more than $6 million in revenue through June, with continued uncertainty related to both earned and contributed revenue in the next fiscal year. More than 90 percent of artists who live in Mecklenburg County report being negatively impacted by COVID-19. Nearly 80 percent have experienced a loss of artistic income—meaning a total loss of income for some—and more than 75 percent expect COVID-19 to severely impact their artistic business. ASC was able to divert some resources to establish the Mecklenburg Creatives Resiliency Fund, which is providing emergency funds to individual artists, musicians, performers and others in the creative community as they navigate potentially dire economic situations due to income lost because of the pandemic.

**Organization:** City of San Diego Commission for Arts & Culture

**City, State:** San Diego, CA

**Organization leader:** Jonathon Glus

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Thus far, the city's FY21 budget shows a reduction of more than $200 million in hotel tax revenues - the sole source of City arts funding. To date the draft budget shows an elimination of more than $12 million in funding to the non-profit arts and culture sector. With strong external advocacy, modest funding is possible for FY21.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

We don't have the data on this yet. The Arts Commission annually surveys grantees on liquid net assets as part of the grant application process. We will be conducting an emergency survey to assess current liquid assets and projected liquid assets in 3 and 6 months. This will be shared with the foundation sector. Perhaps the most apparent immediate impact has been the lack of equity in emergency funding to the field. However, the City has announced an emergency stimulus package in partnership with the San Diego Regional Foundation. The City's portion is directed entirely to artists. A WPA-style program, called San Diego Works, will acquire existing artworks by San Diego artists and provide small and mid-sized grants for artists to create temporary and permanent artworks for public spaces throughout the city - primarily parks, libraries and beaches. The San Diego Foundation will conduct a crowd-funding for the arts in partnership with a regional family foundations.

**Organization:** Arts Commission of Greater Toledo

**City, State:** Toledo, Ohio

**Organization leader:** Marc D. Folk

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

We are preparing various scenarios for income reductions and anticipating losses from multiple government sources. We have also had to cancel two fundraising events due to COVID-19. We are examining the impact of these reductions and determining the timing and need for lay offs. We have opened an Emergency Grants for Artists to help buffer their income loss. We are also very concerned about the growing relevance of access, the digital divide and impact on low income communities. We are postponing all event based programming through July and redesigning our summer youth employment programming to happen on line.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Many organizations have cancelled their seasons and shuttered their doors until the fall. We are working with partners to survey the financial loss and impact to the sector. Organizations are generating free online content that has now associated revenue model. While this is a benefit to the social good, it is not a sustainable model. Many are awaiting notification in regards to the PPL to make staffing decisions.

**Organization:** City of Philadelphia Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy

**City, State:** Philadelphia, PA

**Organization leader:** Kelly Lee

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

OACCE has been asked to revise its FY21 budget with a 20% reduction, or $833,000. This cut will result in the reduction of programming that directly supports arts and culture organizations and individual artists.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

OACCE conducted a survey to learn more about the financial impact of COVID-19 on local individual artists and arts organizations due to the public health restrictions on group gatherings. The survey was open from March 25-April 1, and respondents were asked to estimate the impact of COVID-19 through April 30, 2020. The City is conducting multiple surveys, however this one is focused on the arts community. The survey received 1,104 responses. Out of those who responded, 741 or 67.1% are individual or independent artists, 269 or 24.4% are authorized representatives of an arts and cultural organization, and 94 or 8.5% are an employee of an arts and cultural organization. Authorized representatives of arts and culture organizations reported a total of 7,367 employees are being impacted by COVID-19 public health restrictions. The largest responses, 58.4%, were from small arts organizations reporting an operating budget of $250,000 or less. The arts organizations estimate 2,257 event cancellations with a loss of 879,366 attendees. Total estimated financial loss is $43,076,501 through April 30, 2020. As of April 10, 44.8% of arts organizations cancelled or rescheduled programs and events, 15.1% cancelled fundraisers, and 16.1% reduced salaries or furloughed or reduced staff. Arts organizations’ financial losses of $43,076,501 are also due to refunding tickets and using financial reserves to pay expenses. Of the 847 responses from individual / independent artists and employees of arts and cultural organizations, respondents anticipate a total estimate of 12,786days of work lost through April 30, 2020. Total estimated financial loss to individual / independent artists and employees of arts and cultural organizations from these days of lost work is $5,521,848. OACCE intends to issue another survey in the coming weeks to update data with actual financial impacts instead of estimated numbers. The second survey will also begin to measure the impact of COVID-19 on audiences and their future intentions to participate in the arts and visits arts and cultural institutions. OACCE understands that the results of this survey reflect the experiences only of the organizations and artists who opted in to respond. While the results provide important information that government does not otherwise have, it is not interpreted as a complete economic impact analysis.

**Organization:** Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance

**City, State:** Philadelphia, PA

**Organization leader:** Maud Lyon

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

The Alliance is doing all we can to support the sector:

• A webinar for our members on the PPP program and frequent email updates and a COVID-19 Resources page on philaculture.org that lists funding opportunities, webinars, articles and lots of useful references. We have a webinar this Thursday about how to make your case to donors amidst all of this.

• Re-vamped the Phillyfunguide to feature virtual programming, with an “Arts + Culture To Go” theme – we have well over 130 programs listed now, website traffic has doubled

• Launched a $3.5 million COVID-19 Arts Aid PHL fund, in collaboration with the Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy and the Philadelphia Cultural Fund, with major support in every way from the William Penn Foundation. Funders are continuing to contribute to it – since the announcement last Wednesday, 41 individual have contributed $7,825 to it, and we have talked with foundations and major donors about another $250,000+

• Watching the politics and budget revisions looming in Harrisburg and Philadelphia to try to make sure arts and culture is not unfairly sacrificed, though we know what government is facing

• Already thinking about what the next step looks like and how to help our members think creatively about their possible options for the future

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

The millions in revenue that has been lost will never be replaced. Foundations and donors are being generous the but need is far greater. The uncertainty around re-opening makes planning how to use scarce resources difficult.

**Organization:** ahha Tulsa

**City, State:** Tulsa, OK

**Organization leader:** Holly Becker

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

We run a multidisciplinary arts center in the Tulsa Arts District and we have obviously had to close to visitors. We also had to cancel our annual fundraiser that generates 20% of our revenue. We will lose $600,000 to $800,000 as a result of the closures and cancelations. Our school programming is limited and only offered now via distance learning. For now, we are keeping our staff employed with a combination of PPP loan funding and savings/investment funds. This cannot continue past August.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Everyone is focused on financial sustainability and applying for grants and loans. While some artists continue to create, the large organizations that generate big projects, productions and new creative content are focused elsewhere. Public art projects are on hold or operating with a reduced budget. The ecosystem is really in a holding pattern. Some organizations are going to survive because of investments and other support. Some are sure to close.

**Organization:** Miami-Dade Department of Cultural Affairs

**City, State:** Miami, FL

**Organization leader:** Michael Spring

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Our staff is working from home and all programs and services, now emphasizing COVID-19 resources and strategies, are continuing to be offered to the cultural community. The theaters and arts centers operated by the Department are closed. Public art and capital projects continue to be implemented.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Our Department has created a financial tracking spreadsheet to enable nonprofit arts organizations to log impacts on revenues and jobs. The data from this "tracker" can be uploaded to a survey issued by the Department to assess the financial, programmatic and jobs impact. The survey will be issued monthly; March's results will be available on April 17th. The Department is connecting artists to resources available to help address the impact on creative workers.

**Organization:** City of Oakland, CA Cultural Affairs Division

**City, State:** Oakland, CA

**Organization leader:** Roberto Bedoya

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

For this FY year we are okay, FY 20/21 will be harsh as we deal the serve loss of Hotel Tax revenues and the city as a whole shrinks.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Of our 90 grantees,which are primarily small and mid-size organizations they have experienced a loss of over 3 million earned revenue dollars when last calculated two weeks ago. Our teaching artists and artist as contracted laborers are experiencing serve losses and under a lot of stress given their "gig" status as a worker.

**Organization:** CultureSource

**City, State:** Detroit, MI

**Organization leader:** Omari Rush

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Most of our revenue comes from project funding from charitable foundations and from membership dues. Both of those sources are challenged right now. We have also been busier than ever in curating and rounding up resources for our Southeast Michigan cultural sector—so managing the opportunity to serve and help rebuild our field has also been a challenge, but one our team is feeling energized to face.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Organizations in Southeast Michigan are struggling to navigate many aspects of the crisis...still whether to close and cancel things, waiting to find out if they can get a PPP loan, helping their artists and contractors find resources, grieving a variety of losses, and managing organizations with progressively fewer and fewer resources—financial and staff. Campaigns for support of restaurants, main street retail, tech entrepreneurs, and other non-arts small business are also dominating the media coverage...along with the devastating impacts the virus is having on community health in metro Detroit. That is all challenging the ability of the arts to be seen, heard, and supported.

**Organization:** Arts Council for Long Beach

**City, State:** Long Beach CA

**Organization leader:** Griselda Suarez

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

We have cancelled one fundraiser, our advocacy on AB5 which has had an enormous impact on artists, and we are shifting energy and resources to provide online engagement.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

All of our organizations have canceled their seasons or major events. In 2018, Long Beach arts expenditures were $17 million so impact is across the board.

**Organization:** Cultural Arts Division

**City, State:** Austin, TX

**Organization leader:** Meghan Wells

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Since the bulk of our contractual support to local arts orgs comes from Hotel Occupancy Tax, we are looking at difficulty covering current contractual obligations for FY20 and the fund looks to be decimated for FY21 (though we have not yet received any firm financial forecast from our Convention Center yet). Impact is $12M to ($1M?). We currently fund 600+ arts contracts, and have pushed "pause" on accepting applications for FY21. City is rolling out some relief through: Emergency Injury Bridge Loan but it is only available to for-profit businesses; the Creative Space Assistance Program, but it will likely not be available to individual artists; and $15M in additional social service support to be distributed to contracted social service nonprofit groups. It is still not nearly enough help for everyone.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Many groups and individual artists are pivoting to online platforms as much as possible, but this is not feasible for some disciplines, nor is it a reliable way to monetize creation/delivery of artistic work or reach broad audiences. Many individual artists are looking more than ever to non-arts gigs to fill financial void, and orgs are competing for highly sought local philanthropic donations/relief sources. Govt is slowest to be able to respond, though first to be asked to do something for community. Financial impact of SXSW cancellation alone was estimated at $360M of local economic loss for Austin, but it is impossible to accurately estimate the full depth of impact at this point right now.

**Organization:** Regional Arts & Culture Council

**City, State:** Portland, OR

**Organization leader:** Madison Cario

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Largely unknown at this point. Planning for worst case scenario which would include a potential 75%-85% reduction in funding from City sources. These sources represent 76% of our total funding.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Oregon Artists and Arts Organizations report $56M lost revenue Survey results forecast 3-month financial impact of COVID-19 on arts & culture community PORTLAND, ORE – Across the world, life has changed dramatically as the impact of the coronavirus pandemic continues to unfold. The picture of that impact on the arts community came into sharp focus this week as the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC) tallied results from a statewide survey conducted last week. The Oregon COVID-19 Impact Survey is an effort to measure estimated losses during March, April and May 2020 on individuals working in the arts as well as arts organizations. Reported losses include revenues from lost contracts, shows and teaching work that have all been cancelled in order to comply with restrictions on group sizes, gatherings and requirements for social distancing during this health crisis. RACC, the nonprofit arts council for the tri-county area including Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties, collected more than 1,200 responses from individuals and more than 260 arts organizations across 25 counties. Multnomah County-based artists provided the bulk of the data with more than 900 respondents reporting a total of $46 million in losses for the single quarter. Initial analysis of the data show impacts increasing month over month. RACC intends to share the data to support efforts at the state, federal and local levels and to lead advocacy efforts and guide resource collection and distribution for individuals and organizations. “Thank you to the people who took the time to respond to the survey,” said Madison Cario, RACC Executive Director. “They have collectively confirmed that many individuals and organizations working in arts and culture lack sufficient infrastructure and resources to sustain continued financial and social disruptions.” The information is well-documented in the field, Cario added, “The survey data empowers advocates and funders with specific financial details of what is currently being lost as we work towards solutions.” As part of the response to COVID-19, RACC is relaxing funding restrictions in order to get dollars out the door faster, and partnering with other grant makers to deepen impact. “We are grateful to have the Oregon Community Foundation and the Miller Foundation at the table with the shared goal of relief for the arts community, said Cario. “This relief is intended as breathing room so we can be creative about possible pivots and planning adaptations for the long haul.”

**Organization:** Cultural Council for Palm Beach County

**City, State:** Lake Worth Beach, FL

**Organization leader:** Dave Lawrence

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

In just a few short weeks, the impact will be more than a half-million dollar decrease in revenue (both earned and contributed income), cancellation of all programs and initiatives, postponement of the announcement of our new Artist Innovation Fellowship program (and the loss of funding for a second year), and we anticipate that there will be staff reductions (layoffs and furloughs) in the coming weeks.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

It is devastating. County bed tax collection is down 33 - 38% which will reduce our funding programs for marketing and cultural tourism by as much. Additionally, we were working on increasing the GOS grant program for our smallest cultural organizations. That additional funding is, more likely than not, cancelled at this time - leaving our most vulnerable institutions at risk for closure. Organizations are furloughing their entire staffs, freezing positions, requiring pay cuts and loss of benefits, and other cost-saving measures.

**Organization:** Metro Arts: Nashville Office of Arts + Culture

**City, State:** Nashville, TN

**Organization leader:** Caroline Vincent

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

We are spending most of our staff time and capacity around supporting our arts and culture organizations and providing connection to resources and professional advice around the CARES Act. We've also lost the ability to hire an employee to support our funding programs since the city has declared a hiring freeze. So we're understaffed as well.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Arts and cultural organizations are struggling to survive with the closures. The federal funds through the CARES Act is the only thing keeping many of them afloat and will be for sometime. We found organizations had anywhere from 2 weeks to 2 months operating cash available and we're heading toward mass layoffs without the stimulus package.

**Organization:** Bravo Greater Des Moines

**City, State:** Des Moines, Iowa

**Organization leader:** Sally Dix

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Bravo is 99% funded with hotel/motel tax. Although we will be able to honor all grant committments through 2020, we are looking at a reduction of 50% or more in our capacity to fund the more than 70 cultural partners who rely on Bravo for unrestricted GOS annually across our region. We were literally minutes away (desk ordered, computer in place) from hiring a fourth staff person and have put that on hold indefinitely.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Cancellations, postponements, rescheduling, layoffs, furloughs. Also an immense amount of collaboration, creativity and resiliancy.

**Organization:** Arts Cleveland

**City, State:** Cleveland, OH

**Organization leader:** Megan Van Voorhis

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Most of our previously planned efforts have been pushed aside as the staff has shifted gears almost entirely to manage COVID-19 response efforts. We're hosting weekly meetings with sector representatives, providing background context for funders and the media, creating strategy for relief funds/efforts, carrying out statewide advocacy and providing direct counsel and support to constituents. We recently partnered to launch a $250,000 loan fund for artists with our local arts credit union and are working to make state legislative changes that we believe will influence that effort. We have postponed our public officials recognition breakfast until the fall, which will result in a loss of sponsorship and earned income for our organization. Another planned earned income project was also pushed off because of COVID-19.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

The financial impact of COVID-19 on the arts and culture sector has been severe (multi-millions lost). Many larger organizations in our sector have furloughed part-time, seasonal workers (a base largely comprised of artists), which has further exacerbated issues arising out of an an already weak system of support for the artist population here. With a significant portion of our arts and cultural organizations sitting in the performing arts space, and the likelihood that most folks may not feel comfortable returning to those types of large gatherings until there is a vaccine, concerns exist about losing parts of the arts and cultural infrastructure altogether. 12-18 months is a long time to go, and many organizations here don't have that kind of reserve. Teaching artists and organizations focused on providing services to the schools are also at risk. Our live music venues also face struggles/closure. We are seeing some innovations as far as putting work online, but it seems most prevalent in the arts education, arts therapy and visual arts spaces. Performing arts organizations (particularly theater/dance) have not been as easily able to adapt - as challenges with monetizing work online are considerable.

**Organization:** Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture (f/k/a LA County Arts Commission)

**City, State:** Los Angeles County, CA

**Organization leader:** Kristin Sakoda

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

LA County Arts & Culture is responding to Covid in a number of ways--actively adjusting existing grant programs, invoicing, reporting and timelines to be responsive and flexible for the needs of the field and ensure funding can remain accessible for grantees; shifting professional development and technical assistance to online formats; convening municipal local arts agencies, arts service organizations, and arts philanthropy in the County to share best practices and increase coordination and advocate for the arts; sharing information on Covid resources for the field including emergency grants; partnering with County Consumer & Business Affairs to bring information and tech assistance to the arts sector for SBA loans and grants and unemployment benefits. We are also looking at opportunities to repurpose funds or find new public-private emergency funds to support the needs of the field in the crisis. Lastly, we are looking at next FY and our role in getting artists and organizations back to work supporting our region's recovery through dollars for Civic Art projects, Arts Education, Youth Development, Creative Economy, and more, with the WPA in mind. A larger economic concern may mean budget curtailments for all government departments which could reduce available funding for years.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

The arts and creative sector has been hit hard. In the Los Angeles region it is a major arts ecology, arts nonprofit sector, tens of thousands of creative workers and artists, and a $200B creative economy overall that generates 1 out of every 5 jobs here. The impact is huge in every way--economic impact; unemployment; education and creative learning; and arts organizations that may never be able to come back.

**Organization:** Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture

**City, State:** Phoenix, AZ

**Organization leader:** Mitch Menchaca

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

The City Manager’s initial trial budget introduced in early March included significant additional funds for the Office of Arts and Culture. A new trial budget presentation will be given to City Council, and the City Manager has developed some scenarios to estimate potential economic impacts on the city budget. Department directors have been asked to identify possible cuts of up to 25% within their departments. This exercise does not mean we are cutting 25%, but it means the city is preparing options in case an economic recession makes any level of reductions necessary. Staffing is not on the table, as all vacant positions were already swept, which the Office of Arts and Culture had three vacant positions. With the vacancy savings staff is having to double up on duties, including public art project managers focusing on aspects of maintenance that would be done by our collections manager and the executive director now manages the cultural facilities program, including the tenant relationships, work order requests, maintenance oversight for our eight facilities. The Office of Arts and Culture has a very lean budget, and this reduction will impact our programmatic areas, including grants, public art maintenance, cultural facilities, and our work in creative youth development. Our arts and culture commission, an advisory body, will discuss the budget process at their next meeting, and having a conversation about proposed reduction scenarios. Our grant deadline was earlier this month, and we received an increase in applications. Even with the budget reductions, we are still going to move forward with virtual grants panels to assess the applications and see where we land to make any changes to the program that need to be made to accommodate the FY21 grants budget. As for grants, we partnered with the Arizona Commission on the Arts, the Arizona Community Foundation, and the Arts Foundation for Tucson to create an artist emergency relief fund that will support Arizona artists who are experiencing unprecedented loss of income due to widespread cancellation of events, residencies, and production contracts. The Arizona Commission on the Arts opened the application for Emergency Relief Fund Grants. Due to the high volume of applications received, the application was closed the same day at 6:00 pm. The fund can provide approximately 150 grants. More than 500 applications were submitted in the 8 hours the application portal was open. With the state arts commission, they have been in rigorous contact with Arizona State Legislators, and even more so in the past two weeks, urging them to include arts funding into a “skinny budget” that was passed before the Legislature recessed. Unfortunately, the arts allocation was not included in this budget. The legislature will reconvene virtually in April to revisit budget areas not addressed in the skinny budget. The Office of Arts and Culture does receive funding from the Arizona Commission on the Arts and lack of an appropriation would be another financial hit to the department's budget.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Staff had conversations last week with arts and culture organizations, individual artists, and community partners who have appreciated the opportunity to connect with us. The world is looking a little bleak for them, and they are looking for comfort, resources, and financial reassurance for the future. The Office of Arts and Culture scheduled group calls with organizations to discuss the impact COVID-19 is having on them. We know some organizations are talking about staff furloughs or layoffs. Some organizations are looking at a $500,000 to $1 million loss this fiscal year due to the cancellation of their final shows, school programs, and gala. As for individual artists, we are connecting with our public artists on current projects and answering questions about future ones and pointing them to as many relief grants as we can research. We are trying to get our constituents to complete the Americans for the Arts COVID-19 Impact Study so we can have data to help back-up the anecdotal information our staff is collecting from our conversations with the field.

**Organization:** Sacramento Office of Arts & Culture

**City, State:** Sacramento, CA

**Organization leader:** Jody Ulich

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Budget appears to be reduced by 50% for 20/21. No staff cuts as yet.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Devastated. Working to clarify other funding for artists, creatives, and organizations through State and Federal funding as well as any other avenues.

**Organization:** Arts Council of Oklahoma City

**City, State:** Oklahoma City, OK

**Organization leader:** Peter Dolese

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

435,000

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

18,500,000

**Organization:** Arts Council of Hillsborough County

**City, State:** Tampa, FL

**Organization leader:** Martine Meredith Collier

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Some programming canceled, recipients of some of our grants unable to meet the existing requirements. We are providing those affected with alternate ways to receive funding.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Very serious--especially for our smaller organizations that have minimal cash reserves.

**Organization:** City of Las Vegas Office of Cultural Affairs

**City, State:** Las Vegas, NV

**Organization leader:** Ally Haynes-Hamblen

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Our department is largely on furlough, as most of our staff work in facilities administering classes, rehearsals, workshops, performances, etc. and those facilities have been shut down by order of our Governor. Originally set to re-open April 20th, the closure has been extended to April 30th and we are anticipating it will be extended again. City staff who are on furlough were given 80 hours of "bonus" paid leave, and are now using up paid leave from their own personal banks, such as sick, annual, TILO, etc. Part-time staff have no leave banks and are filing for unemployment benefits. Out of roughly 60 staff: 1 is essential and working on site at City Hall (technician who runs A/V systems in the Council Chambers), 6 are essential and working either from home or at the city's EOC, 4 have been reassigned to the city's emergency response (call center, parks crew, homeless services, etc.), 48 are on furlough. Of the furloughed, 30 are part-time receiving no pay, 17 are being paid from leave banks and 1 is out of leave and not being paid currently. We have canceled as many contracts as we can, including major public art projects that had just begun, to save money for the oncoming economic devastation. We have canceled all events through May, and expect to cancel our summer programs. Our budget proposals for FY21 have been reduced by 20-25%, through a combination of position eliminations and program cutbacks.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Much of arts and culture in Las Vegas relies on tourism, particularly for galleries and shows happening on the Strip and in the downtown casinos and resorts. With the total shut down of all gaming, hotels, resorts, and domestic/international travel restrictions, our arts ecosystem in Las Vegas is in somewhat of a coma. In our community, most of the local arts organizations are so small and so young that they are nimble and able to reduce down to a budget of almost nothing and remain dormant through the worst of this crisis. The hardest part is seeing the regression of really outstanding growth that has taken place over the past 5-10 years - this crisis will set the arts community back to square one to rebuild again. The Arts District has developed a Basecamp community and are self-patrolling their businesses and empty lots with 24/7 reporting through Basecamp; our office is also patrolling arts and culture facilities and key artworks in the Public Art collection with daily rounds conducted by the 6 staff who are working remotely. If artwork or facilities are vandalized or damaged in any way, it is noted, and reported within 24 hours (usually faster) and can be addressed immediately. We are using our downtime as well to develop programs with local arts organizations to partner this coming fiscal year on fundraisers in creative ways, and to offer staff, facility and admin support to get artists and arts organizations back on their feet. I am most concerned about the long-term viability of mid-size organizations like our local Broadway presenter and our University presenter, our local Philharmonic and our local ballet company - these organizations are large enough to be less nimble at "rolling with the punches" of this devastating economic downturn.

**Organization:** Greater Columbus Arts Council

**City, State:** Columbus, Ohio

**Organization leader:** Tom Katzenmeyer

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

No layoffs/furloughs. All are working remotely. We will begin to use our reserves to fund a round of operating support next month(our largest grant program). All spending frozen(no travel, etc.). Two of our three public funding sources are budgeted at zero for at least four months.

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

All arts organizations and institutions are closed. Layoffs/furloughs in place. Most have applied for SBA/PPP program. No re-opening dates projected.

**Organization:** Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region

**City, State:** Colorado Springs, CO

**Organization leader:** Andy Vick

**Organizational impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Big impact. Lots of programming is moving online. Waiting to see how much City funding will be reduced. What will individual and corporate contributions and sponsorships look like this year?

**Arts and Culture ecosystem impact of the COVID-19 crisis:**

Lots of artists and arts orgs are hurting. How will arts & cultural be prioritized during the recovery?