

Dear Representative Herod, Representative Benavidez, and Senator Jaquez Lewis:

First of all, we wish to thank you and your colleagues in the Colorado Legislature for reinstating Colorado Creative Industries' (our state arts agency) and Colorado Film Office's budgets, which were substantially cut back in May 2020. We also appreciate your recent efforts to pass SB20B-001 relief funding which included \$7.5 million for artists, crew members, and creative organizations statewide.

Artists, cultural and creative workers, however, continue to struggle in Colorado as a result of the pandemic. For over a year, many have been out of work with performance venues shuttered, music festivals cancelled, exhibitions postponed and cultural institutions closed. Job and revenue losses to the creative economy have been staggering, and perhaps no other industry sector has been more deeply impacted than the arts – including hospitality, restaurants and transportation. The arts were the first to close and will be the last to reopen.

And yet, the arts give us so much; they give us hope and uplift our communities in times of trouble. The arts inspire innovation and creative solutions to social and economic challenges, they drive tourism and community vitality, as well as support our mental health and help build healthier and more vibrant and equitable communities. Not to mention the broader economic impact and ripple effect the arts have on other industry sectors, such as restaurants, transportation, retail, etc. – when the arts thrive in Colorado, so do other businesses that rely on their audiences.

According to a study by Colorado State University and Colorado Creative Industries, it is projected that Colorado's creative industries **lost an estimated 59,588 jobs and \$2.6 billion in sales revenue between April and July 2020** due to the COVID-19 crisis. This four-month period of estimated losses **contracted the region's creative economy by 31% in terms of employment and 8% in annual sales revenue.** *The losses are substantially greater as creative businesses and cultural organizations remain shuttered.* Thus, funding arts and culture in Colorado is more critical than ever if our creative sector is to survive!

Through the SB20B-001 funding, the Colorado Arts Relief Fund, 599 individuals in 41 counties were awarded a total of \$1.365 million; and 123 arts, culture, and entertainment organizations in 33 counties across the state received general operating support grants totaling \$5,985,500.

Although this lifeline was extremely helpful, it only scratched the surface of the deep need. Colorado Creative Industries (CCI) received close to 2,000 applications but was only able to fund about 50% of individual and 25% of businesses/organizations requests for arts relief funding. Thus, **we ask that you consider providing additional relief funding in the amount of \$5 million for the arts sector, as outlined in Governor Polis' Colorado Recovery Plan, to get us closer to meeting the full need.**

Again, we appreciate these initial relief funds, but the need remains great and ongoing, and there is more stimulus needed for our state's artists, cultural workers and creative businesses. Please consider allocating additional funding through the state stimulus funds for the arts to help rebuild our essential creative economy in Colorado.

Sincerely,

Christin Crampton Day
Executive Director, Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA)

Chris Ross
Vice President/Commercial Banking, U.S. Bank
Board Chair, CBCA

Paul Deckard
Managing Director, Opera Colorado

Tara Brickell
Executive Director/CEO, CherryArts

Judith E. Lajoie, Esq.
Board Chair, CherryArts

Herman Tiemens, MBA, CFP
Private Wealth Financial Advisor/Managing Director – Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors
Board Chair, Colorado Springs Philharmonic

Tracy Weil
Executive Director, RiNo Arts District & Artist
Board Member, CBCA

Chris Wineman
Principal, Semple Brown

Ken Fucik
President, Grand Lake Creative District

Natalie Johnson
Executive Director, Manitou Art Center

Karen Foglesong
Executive Director, Pueblo Arts Alliance & Pueblo Creative Corridor

Hayley Kirkman
Executive Director, Durango Creative District

Bob Keatinge
Of Counsel, Holland & Hart
Secretary, CBCA

Kathy Kranz
CFO, Pinnacol Assurance
Treasurer, CBCA

Dustin Whistler
President & CEO, Forte Commercial Real Estate
Vice Chair of the Board, CBCA & Chair, CBCA Advocacy Committee

Mark Davidson
Partner, Fairfield & Woods
Board Member, CBCA

Mose Franck
Vice President of Operations, Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center & Rocky Mountain Hospital
for Children
Board Member, CBCA

Hassan Najjar
Executive Director, Foothills Arts Center
Board Member, CBCA

Radhika Mahanty
Owner, La Rondine Consulting
Board Member, CBCA

Meg Satrom
Owner, Memoro Creative Consulting
Board Member, CBCA

Curtis Robbins
Board Member, CBCA

Ginger White Brunetti
Executive Director, Denver Arts & Venues

James Mejia
CEO, Denver Film

Andy Vick
Executive Director, Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region, Colorado Springs

Dagny McKinley
Development Director, Steamboat Creates

Jason Evenson
President, Greeley Creative District

Lori Call
Senior Director of Policy Programs, Boulder Chamber of Commerce

Angela Astle
Executive Producer and Founder, Athena Project

Jan Burton, Deborah Malden, Ann Moss, Nick Forster, Fran Zankowski
Create Boulder - Board of Directors

Stephen Weitz
Producing Artistic Director, Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company

Dr. Sara Parkinson
Interim Executive Director, Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra

Michael Buttermann
Music Director, Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra

Elizabeth McGuire
Executive Director, Colorado Music Festival and Center for Musical Arts

Tammy Helart
Treasurer, Boulder Metalsmithing Association

K. Kleinjan
Assistant Director, Boulder Metalsmithing Association

Charlotte LaSasso
Executive Director, Boulder County Arts Alliance

Shelly Benford
Chief Executive Officer, Colorado Chautauqua Association

Marda Kirn
Executive Director, EcoArts Connections

Nancy Smith
Artistic Director, Frequent Flyers® Aerial Dance (Boulder, CO)

Trudy Turvey
Board member, *Colorado Chautauqua Association*

Heather A. Beasley
Associate Artistic Director, Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company

Rebecca Remaly
Managing Director, Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company

Joanna Rosenblum
Board Member, Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company

Julie Walker
Board Member, Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company

Peter Spear
Board of Directors, Colorado Chautauqua Association

Kari Palazzari
Executive Director, Studio Arts Boulder

Beth Merckel
Executive Director, Boulder Metalsmithing Association

Lisa Nesmith
President, North Boulder (NoBo) Art District

Anne B. Beer
Board President, Colorado Music Festival/Center For Musical Arts

Bruce R. Neumann, Ph.D.
Professor, University of Colorado Denver

Jean Hodges
Board Co-Chair EDI Committee, Boulder Ensemble Theatre Company

Frank Bruno
Chief Executive Officer, Via Mobility Services
Board Member, Colorado Chautauqua Association

Jeanne Kipke
President Boulder Art Association

Matt Chasansky
Manager, City of Boulder Office of Arts and Culture

Tim Russo
KGNU Station Manager

Dan Corson
Board Member, Colorado Chautauqua Association

Claudia Anata Hubiak
Executive Director, Boulder Ballet

Christopher Warren
Board Vice President, North Boulder (NoBo) Art District

Robert Cavalier
Treasurer, North Boulder (NoBo) Art District

Alex Milewski
Head Dancer Block 1750

Leah Brenner Clack
Board Member, North Boulder (NoBo) Art District
Executive Director, Street Wise Arts

Louise Martorano
Executive Director, RedLine

Christian Gaines
Executive Director, Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF)

David Fulker
Board Member & Past President, Boulder Philharmonic Orchestra
Unidata Director Emeritus, University Corp for Atmospheric Research
Board Member & Past President, Open-source Project for a Network Data Access Protocol
Sole Proprietor, Boatright Music Works