

COVID-19 ARTS & CULTURE

Relief Fund

The Impact

- The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on our community's arts & culture organizations has been enormous
 - Lost ticket sales, admissions, venue rentals
 - Cancelled galas and fundraising events

COVID-related loss among Colorado arts & culture organizations is estimated to be \$17 million as of April 7

- Additional impacts to organizations will be felt in the coming years:
 - A sharp decline in sales tax-revenue that funds SCFD will result in future significant reductions in that critical source of funding
 - If Red Rocks remains closed for the summer, this will result in very large reductions in revenue for Arts & Venues, affecting their capacity to support the Denver cultural sector
 - Colorado Creative Industries is funded by gaming revenue, also impacted by closures, which will affect CCI's future support of the cultural sector
 - Many other municipal budgets are already facing deficits, and this will likely result in more arts and culture public funding cuts at the local level

In Colorado, while funds have been created to support individual artists and other creatives, there has been limited relief efforts for arts & culture organizations

Our Goal

To create a collective fund that helps offset lost revenue due to the impact of COVID-19 to ensure ability to retain staff/artists/minimal operations allowing the organization time to plan future sustainability

Ultimately we hope to create a fund of \$5 million

Background/Need

The cultural sector is critical to our quality of life, to our humanity, to our community vibrancy and diversity, and holistic well-being.

We must do all within our power to help our arts sector get through this crisis and continue to provide its extraordinary value to our community

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The Proposal

Collaborative funds to support the cultural sector have been and continue to be introduced in regions across the country. These models have helped inform the design of our relief fund

Eligible Organizations

- 501c3 in good standing (or fiscally sponsored organizations with strong track record of programming and community service)
- Primary mission is to present arts & culture programming to the public
- Must have demonstrated sustained cultural offerings for a minimum of two years
- Priority will be given to organizations that engage and support diverse communities, particularly those that have been and remain financially vulnerable
- Priority will be given to organizations that offer substantial public benefit through free/discounted admissions/ticketing, scholarships, and engagement to traditionally marginalized communities
- Priority will be given to organizations with limited or no access to other relief funds, limited or no endowments, limited or no cash reserves
- Budget size: Minimum \$25K, Maximum \$15M
- The geographic focus will be on the seven-county Denver metropolitan region

Grants Management & Review Process

- The Denver Foundation will administer the fund
- There will be a simple application process to minimize work
- Two rounds of applications and awards may be considered pending timeliness and level of securing additional funds
- First round will accept applications through June with funding decisions in July or August
- A Committee will review the applications and make grant decisions
- Grant size will range from \$5,000-\$50,000, based on budget size, negative impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the organization, other sources of relief funding the organization may have already received, and the critical/unique value of the organization's role in the community

Allowable use of funds

- Costs associated with sustaining operations, retaining employees and artists, rent etc.
- New and emergency needs, particularly for service offerings outside normal operations to respond to social distancing, isolation and quarantine.

Ineligible use of funds

- Capital, endowment, renovations, reduction of accumulated debt prior to COVID 19 impact, purchase of major equipment, regranteeing, standalone one-time festivals, conferences or events, independent projects, films and publications, programs offered as part of a larger institution (college, medical center etc.), no religious affiliation

Ready to donate to the fund?

<http://www.denverfoundation.org/COVID-19-Arts-Culture-Relief-Fund>

[Questions? Email admin@bonfils-stanton.org](mailto:admin@bonfils-stanton.org)