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*
COVID-19 ARTS & CULTURE 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, regranting, 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