

Arts & Culture

Leaders of St. Louis

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OVER 100 ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS ASK ST. LOUIS CITY AND COUNTY LEADERS TO ALLOCATE RELIEF FUNDS TO THE ARTS

ST. LOUIS – An unprecedented consortium of 111 arts and culture organizations throughout St. Louis City and St. Louis County have come together to petition local government leaders to allocate COVID-19 federal relief funds to the arts and culture sector of the region.

In a letter sent to St. Louis Mayor Tishaura Jones, St. Louis County Executive Sam Page, City of St. Louis Comptroller Darlene Green, the St. Louis Board of Aldermen and the St. Louis County Council on October 14, the consortium of arts leaders requested a direct line-item allocation of 5% of the federal relief funds committed to the City, along with 5% of federal relief funds committed to the County, to be distributed to St. Louis-area arts and culture organizations. **The full letter, and a list of signatories, can be found online at artsculturestl.org.**

“The 111 organizations that signed this letter want to remind our civic leaders just how critical the Arts and Culture sector is to our region’s vitality,” says Sheldon Executive Director Peter Palermo. “The people of this area have spent decades building world class cultural institutions – but now is the time to act if we want to ensure that we pass them on to future generations.”

The 5% ask was determined by the Regional Arts Commission (RAC) based on a recovery and resilience strategy that is informed by the sector’s overall economic impact, RAC’s revenue loss through 2025 and an investment in the sector’s long-term resilience. It represents the aggregate amount that would help arts and culture organizations recover funds lost by the region in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic and help support their recovery.

MORE...

Relief Funds for The Arts cont'd.
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Per the [U.S. Census Bureau's Small Business Pulse Survey](#), arts, entertainment and recreation businesses were second only to accommodations and food services in “large negative effect” and “severe impact” from the pandemic yet are not getting the same level of relief as other sectors of the economy. The arts and culture sector supports over 19,000 full time equivalent jobs, and more than 15,000 individual artists across a wide variety of disciplines in the St. Louis region.

Available for interview/comment:

Kwofe Coleman, Managing Director, The Muny

Vanessa Cooksey, President & CEO, Regional Arts Commission of St. Louis

Lisa Melandri, Executive Director, Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis

Kelly Pollock, Executive Director, COCA

Hana Sharif, Artistic Director, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis

Please contact Mike Wilmering at O'Malley Hansen Communications (mike.wilmering@omalleyhansen.com or 314-366-0321) to request and schedule interviews.

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