

FROM THE  
**DALLAS ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMUNITY**

July 24, 2020 (*updated list as of July 27, 2020*)

The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn,

Thank you for all you have done to address the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic and fiscal crisis that it has created. Congress' swift action on the first relief bills have stabilized our economy and provided relief to businesses and households. And the Dallas arts, cultural and live entertainment community wants to extend special thanks to you for your co-authorship of the **Save Our Stages Act**.

As you know from your long and deep engagement across Texas, its cities - of all sizes - contain a diverse and vibrant range of live performing arts and entertainment venues. From the rowdy live music stages of Austin to the jewel box of the Meyerson Symphony Center, home to the Dallas Symphony, these venues support billions of dollars annually in economic impact, millions of jobs and spur our state's robust tourism and hospitality industry. Our business models are built on bringing people together in one space, to collectively enjoy a live performance experience. All of that has been turned on its head by COVID-19.

Live music and performing arts venues were among the first to be closed during the COVID-19 crisis and will be some of the last to return to full operations. Here in Dallas, our stages have been closed since mid-March, with no earned revenue from ticket sales, ancillaries, fees, parking, sponsorships, and more. The loss of this income threatens permanent closure of our venues, the financial ruin of our organizations, the loss of millions of jobs, and a devastating blow to our tourism industry. While Governor Abbott's guidelines allow some venues to reopen, doing so with significantly reduced capacity and socially distanced seating does not make economic sense. Also, most artists and shows will not resume touring until next year.

The Save Our Stages Act will help us survive. It would provide \$10B for a grant assistance program run through the Small Business Administration. It's designed to support independent venue operators that have made the Texas cultural economy so exciting. These grants will help us stay afloat until we can reopen, covering critical operating expenses like rent, utilities, PPE, maintenance, and keep critical employees on the job and off the unemployment rolls.

So thank you for introducing the Save Our Stages Act. If passed, it will be a lifeline for many of our organizations.

We also want to take a moment to encourage your support for **additional financial support for state and local governments** in the upcoming COVID-19 relief bill to help them grapple with this economic public health emergency. Cities and states provide core services essential to individual residents and our business community as well. We rely on our state and city to

provide public utilities, infrastructure, and public safety, among other core services that are vital to a modern economy, and for keeping Texas open for business.

Senator Cornyn, from the **111** arts and cultural organizations, performance venues and supporters listed below supporting your Save Our Stages Act, thank you for your support.

African American Museum of Dallas	Dallas Summer Musicals
African American Repertory Theater	Dallas Symphony Association
American Baroque Opera Company	Dallas Theater Center
Anita N. Martinez Ballet Folklorico	Dallas Tourism Public Improvement District
Arga Nova Dance	Dallas Videofest
Art House Dallas*	Dallas Winds
Arts Mission Oak Cliff	Dance Council of North Texas
Ash Studios	Danielle Georgiou Dance Group
AT&T Performing Arts Center*	Donna Wilhelm Friendship Fund
Bandan Koro African Drum and Dance Ensemble	The Deep Ellum Foundation
Bath House Cultural Center*	Deep Vellum Publishing
Beckles Dancing Company	Embrey Family Foundation
Blue Candlelight Music Series	Fair Park*
Bishop Arts Theatre Center*	Fair Park First
Bombshell Dance Project	5 Rhythms BodySpiritDance
The Bomb Factory*	Friends of Bath House Cultural Center
Bruce Wood Dance	Gossypion Investments
Bryant Hall*	Hall of State at Fair Park*
Cara Mía Theatre Company	Hamon Hall*
Canton Hall*	Indian Cultural Heritage Foundation
Chamber Music International	Junior Players
The Cedars Union	Kalita Humphreys Theater*
City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture	Kitchen Dog Theater*
Cora Cardona - Independent Theatre Artist	Klyde Warren Park*
Creative Arts Center of Dallas	Latino Cultural Center*
Crow Museum of Asian Art of The University of Texas at Dallas	Laughter League
Cry Havoc Theater	Lone Star Wind Orchestra
Dallas Area Cultural Advocacy Coalition	Majestic Theatre*
Dallas Arts District*	Meyerson Symphony Center *
Dallas Black Dance Theatre*	Moody Fund for the Arts
Dallas Chamber Symphony	Moody Performance Hall*
Dallas Children's Theater*	Music Hall at Fair Park*
Dallas Film Society/Dallas International Film Festival	Nasher Sculpture Center*
Dallas Heritage Village	New Texas Symphony Orchestra
Dallas Historical Society	No Limits Arts Theatre, Inc.
Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum	North Texas Business Council for the Arts
Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture	Oak Cliff Cultural Center*
The Dallas Opera	Oak Cliff Society of Fine Arts*
Dallas Metroplex Musicians' Association	Ochre House Theater*
Dallas Museum of Art*	Orchestra of New Spain
	Over the Bridge Arts
	Pegasus Theatre*
	Perot Museum of Nature and Science

RBC Deep Ellum\*  
Sammons Center for the Arts\*  
Sammons Park\*  
Second Thought Theatre  
Shakespeare Dallas  
Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza  
6th Floor Studio Theatre\*  
South Dallas Cultural Center\*  
Soul Rep Theatre Company  
Strauss Square\*  
TACA – The Arts Community Alliance  
Teatro Dallas  
Texans for the Arts  
Texas Ballet Theater  
Theatre Three, Inc.\*  
Trees\*  
TITAS/Dance Unbound  
Turtle Creek Chorale  
24 Hour Dallas  
Undermain Theatre\*  
Uptown Players  
USA Dance Dallas  
Verdigris Ensemble  
VisitDallas  
Winspear Opera House\*  
The Writer's Garret  
Wylly Theatre\*  
The Women's Chorus of Dallas

*\*Dallas performance venue*