Chairwoman Velázquez, Ranking Member Leukemeyer, members of the Small Business Committee, thank you for holding a hearing to consider the vital role of the arts in our economy. In partnership with the nation’s 4,500 local arts agencies, 56 state arts agencies, 5.2 million creative workers and the state arts alliances that advocate for them, Americans for the Arts is proud to submit this statement and as part of our efforts to advance sound federal creative economy policy in Congress.

The creative economy encompasses multiple business structures, from nonprofit to commercial, large corporations to small businesses and non-employer businesses, often challenging the creation of federal policy that supports and stimulates its contributions to the national economy. Arts and culture workers are not only artists, but also designers, technicians, security staff, art handlers, event planners, administrators, therapists, educators, and entrepreneurs. There are between 5.2 million and 8.8 million jobs in the creative economy. Additionally, creative occupations across industry types employ 7.6 million people, and arts workers are more than three times as likely as the general workforce to be self-employed.

The creative economy is anchored by non-employer businesses (entrepreneurs) which are 75% of all businesses and include a high percentage of women- and minority-owned businesses as well as the vast majority of independent artists. Serving these businesses is a matter of equity and advancing the overall economy.

Numerous economic studies have identified the importance and impact of the creative economy on the nation’s overall economy. A pre-COVID-19 annual Bureau of Economic Analysis study demonstrated that arts and culture production contributed $919.7 billion to the U.S. economy (4.3% of GDP). The Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account (ACPSA) is the only federal study to provide in-depth analysis of the creative sector's contributions to the economy.

Additional sector studies include the Americans for the Arts’ Arts and Economic Prosperity Study and Creative Industries reports, as well as more recent studies on the impact of COVID-19 on the creative economy, such as Lost Art: Measuring COVID-19’s devastating impact on America’s creative economy from the Brookings Institute.
The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on America’s arts sector. While employment conditions improve for artists and creative workers, the arts are recovering slower than other industries and COVID continues to disrupt in-person programming.

This is a summary of research by Americans for the Arts and others on the human and financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the arts.

1. Artist Employment is Recovering, But Slower Than the Nation’s Economy

- “Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation” jobs dropped from 2.5 million to 1.2 million between February and April 2020 (-53%). As of December 2021, arts jobs have rebounded to 2.24 million. Positive news, but still down (-11%) since pre-pandemic (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics).

- Johns Hopkins University reports that, as of December 2021, the percentage of job losses at nonprofit arts organizations remains more than 3 times worse than the average of all nonprofits (-12.5% vs. -3.7%).

- The U.S. Census Bureau’s Small Business Pulse Survey reports that “arts, entertainment, and recreation” businesses are among the most likely to take longer than 6 months to recover from the pandemic.

2. Rebound in Arts Attendance

- 63% of arts attendees are already attending in-person programs as of December 2021—up from 38% in September and 17% in April 2021—with 37% expecting to do so in January 2022 or beyond. (AMS Audience Outlook Monitor)

3. The Pandemic’s Impact on Nonprofit Arts & Culture Organizations and their Audiences

As of July 2021, financial losses to the nation’s nonprofit arts and culture organizations were an estimated $17.97 billion. 99% of producing and presenting organizations cancelled events during the pandemic—a loss of 557 million ticketed admissions impacting both arts organizations and audiences. Additionally, local area businesses—restaurants, lodging, retail, and parking—were severely impacted by cancelled arts and culture events with a loss of $17.6 billion in audience ancillary spending. Local government revenue losses were $6.0 billion and 1.03 million jobs were negatively affected because of cancelled events. As of July 2021:

- BIPOC organizations were more likely to report that they lack the financial resources needed to return to in-person programming than non-BIPOC organizations (55% vs. 38%).

- 77% of organizations were currently delivering virtual content/programming. Looking ahead, 29% will improve their online content, post-pandemic, while 18% expect to hold steady. 45% plan to reduce their virtual presence and 8% intend to discontinue it altogether.

4. The Pandemic’s Impact on Artist & Creative Workers
Artists/creatives were—and remain—among the most severely affected segment of the nation’s workforce.

- At the height of the pandemic in 2020, 63% experienced unemployment and 95% lost creative income.
- BIPOC artists had higher rates of unemployment than white artists in 2020 due to the pandemic (69% vs. 60%) and lost a larger percentage of their creative income (61% vs. 56%).
- 37% of artists were unable to access or afford food at some point during the pandemic and 58% did not visit a medical professional due to an inability to pay.

5. The Economic Importance of Getting Artists and Creative Workers Back to Work

- The arts are a formidable industry in the U.S. Prior to the pandemic, the nation’s arts and culture sector (nonprofit, commercial, education) was a $919.7 billion industry that supported 5.2 million jobs and represented 4.3% of the nation’s economy in 2019. (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis)
- The arts industry is an economic catalyst, an industry that accelerates economic recovery. A growth in arts employment has a positive and causal effect on overall employment. (Indiana University)

With this research and reporting in mind, we urge Congress to:

- Support legislation to invest in the country’s creative economy and promote economic inclusion; to recognize artists, entrepreneurs, and nonprofit arts organizations as contributors to the small business community; improve and revitalize rural, remote, and underserved areas; and support the creative economy through federal programs and actions.
- Direct the Small Business Administration (SBA) and other agencies to ensure that existing economic development programs and tools encompass the creative economy, supporting the range of business types included in this industry.
- Ensure inclusion of creative fields in vocational education and training supports.
- Increase comprehensive measurement of the impact of the creative economy on the overall U.S. economy with coordination among the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Census Bureau, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, including updating NAICS Code classification system to better reflect the 21st century creative economy.
- Expand programs at the SBA to increase micro-loans, business loans, and technical assistance for artists and other creative businesses. Continue to make the SBA more responsive to the needs of non-employer businesses and businesses with fewer than 20 employees. Serving these businesses is a matter of equity and advancing the overall economy.
- Require the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development Administration to ensure that traditional economic development tools, such as incubators and grant programs, support the creative economy throughout the country.
• Allow creative economy businesses to partake in the existing New Market Tax Credit.
• Ensure arts-based community development and creative placemaking is directly supported in the Community Reinvestment Act.

We have also included statements in support of the creative economy and the creative workforce from the following sources:
  • Americans for the Arts summary of seven creative economy bills currently before Congress
  • U.S. Conference of Mayors resolutions
  • 113 Local Chambers of Commerce Letter to Congress
FEDERAL CREATIVE ECONOMY LEGISLATION

There is currently more federal creative economy legislation under consideration than ever before in U.S. history. These seven bills together map a new, more equitable and impactful policy landscape for creative businesses and workers. Were all these bills to pass into law, they would improve the lives of all Americans by opening billions of dollars in investment opportunity for creative businesses and entrepreneurs, expanding opportunity for current and future workers, and boosting the U.S. economy.

Through public policy, we can collectively achieve a stronger creative sector, which would drive economic growth and social cohesion and would ensure a better creative life for all. Should these bills, or their concepts, become law:

- The creative economic engine would be recognized and supported for the powerhouse that it is.
- Cultural entrepreneurs and small businesses could access the capital to grow and contribute to local economies.
- Displaced and marginalized creative workers would be taxed and supported appropriately and centered in policy reforms.
- Creative skills development would sit alongside other essential skills to educate a next generation workforce.
- The integration of art in public spaces would be codified as a necessary expenditure toward a health, vibrant community.

Federal public policy reflects national priorities. Our country must invest in creativity to progress and compete.
The introduction, sponsorship, and endorsement of these bills lays the groundwork for a vibrant, prosperous, creative future.

LEGISLATIVE CONNECTIVITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EQUITY</th>
<th>WORKERS</th>
<th>BUSINESSES</th>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>These policies would correct inequities in federal policy and prioritize marginalized communities.</td>
<td>These bills fund creative workers to work and improve labor policy to support independent workers.</td>
<td>This legislation would expand opportunity and protections for all creative businesses.</td>
<td>These bills expand access to lifelong arts education and support skill-building for creative workers.</td>
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COMMUNITY AND SECTOR IMPACT

<table>
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<tr>
<th>FINANCIAL IMPACT</th>
<th>POLICY IMPACT</th>
<th>HUMAN IMPACT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The financial impact of this proposed legislation, collectively, is in the billions of dollars, and would impact both workers and businesses.</td>
<td>The language in these bills fundamentally expands access, opportunity, and support for creative small businesses and arts workers.</td>
<td>The U.S.'s 5.1 million creative workers, as well as students, culturebearers, and community members, would all be impacted by these bills.</td>
</tr>
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# THE BILLS

**Never in U.S. history have there been seven bills introduced in Congress to address and improve the creative economy and the lives of the creative workforce. Together, these bills offer a new vision to supercharge the creative economic powerhouse and ensure a full, vibrant creative life for all Americans.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>CREATE</th>
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| **Bill numbers:** HR 6381  
**Sponsors:** Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI), Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI) |
| **To be re-introduced January 26, 2022**  
**Sponsors:** Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI), Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME) |
| The **Promoting Local Arts and Creative Economy Workforce Act (PLACE Act)** bolsters local creative economies and workers in creative industries. It amends existing legislation to include the arts, creates new creative economy grants, and directs funding for creative businesses. |
| The **Comprehensive Resources for Entrepreneurs in the Arts to Transform the Economy Act (CREATE Act)** aligns policy to serve those that make our creative economy prosper. It expands SBA and EDA loan programs, and integrates creative work into support programs. |

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<th>21CFWP</th>
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| **Bill numbers:** HR 3054  
**Sponsors:** Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA), Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández (D-NM) |
| Inspired by the 1935 Federal Writers’ Project of the New Deal Era, the **21st Century Federal Writers Project Act (21CFWP)** will help address the mass unemployment of writers by authorizing a new grant program and will create a nationally administered archives for the commissioned writing. |

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<tr>
<th>CERA</th>
<th>PATPA</th>
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| **Bill numbers:** HR 5019 / S 2858  
**Sponsors:** Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández (D-NM), Rep. Jay Obernolte (R-CA), Sen. Ben Luján (D-NM) |
| **Bill numbers:** HR 4750 / S 2872  
**Sponsors:** Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA), Rep. Vem Buchanan (R-FL), Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA), Sen. Bill Hagerty (R-TN) |
| The **Creative Economy Revitalization Act (CERA)**, a bi-partisan workforce bill, authorizes $300m in grants to pay local creative workers through public creative projects like festivals, performances, public art, narrative gathering from first responders and marginalized communities, and arts education work. |
| The **Performing Arts Tax Parity Act (PATPA)**, a bi-partisan bill in both the House and the Senate, updates the Qualified Performing Artist tax deduction, modernizing a provision that has been on the books since it was signed into law in the 1980’s so that middle-class arts workers can deduct common business expenses. |

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<th>STAR</th>
<th>AEFA</th>
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| **Bill numbers:** HR 2380  
**Sponsors:** Rep. Alma Adams (D-NC) |
| **Bill numbers:** HR 5581  
| The **Saving Transit Arts Resources Act (STAR Act)** restores control to local transit authorities regarding art and non-functional landscaping in federally funded transit projects. It returns federal transportation policy to what was the status quo for 30 years until a 2015 reauthorization unexpected prohibited such purposes. |
| The **Arts Education for All Act (AEFA)**, the broadest arts education bill ever introduced, supports universal arts education from pre-K through 12th grade, as well as in the juvenile justice system. It closes existing equity gaps to improve health, academic, social, and career success. |
LEGISLATIVE CONNECTIVITY

These seven bills have common aims. Both innovative policies and line-by-line adjustments will impact and improve the lives of creative workers, increase opportunity for creative businesses, expand opportunity to access education in the arts, creativity, and innovation, and correct inequities in current policy.

EQUITY
Racial and cultural equity, particularly for culturebearers, narratives from marginalized groups, and access to arts education, are central to this legislative push. Five of the bills address racial, geographic, economic, and cultural equity.

CERA and 21CFWP include specific calls to commission narratives from marginalized populations, and CERA and AEFA both center funding for arts education for all, including the support of culturebearers who carry traditional knowledge forward. PLACE adjusts policy to ensure Indigenous artisans earn fairer revenue from creative work and protects Native heritage, and CREATE expands access to capital for creative entrepreneurs, particularly in rural settings.

WORKERS
The country’s 5.1 million creative workers have long been unable to fully access federal opportunities and programs; these bills and seek to address that inequity. Six of the bills directly impact the livelihoods of creative workers.

PLACE and PATPA adjust tax codes that currently disadvantage artists so they can deduct fair value for donated work and access tax credits and deductions more appropriately. CERA and 21CFWP authorize direct-to-artist grants for work, while STAR ensures transit money can support creators of public art. AEFA invests in skill-building for creative educators and future workers, and PLACE, through various provisions, improves workforce policy for creative workers and increases access to capital for creative businesses.

BUSINESSES
In the U.S., there are over 673,000 creative businesses—9-in-10 of them small or solo businesses—that will benefit from modest changes in current federal policy. Three of the bills bolster both creative businesses and entrepreneurs.

CREATE expands loan programs and capital for creative businesses, creative entrepreneurs, and non-creative businesses who engage creative workers, and improves access to economic development tools. PLACE increases access to technical assistance, startup and apprenticeship grants, removes barriers to disaster relief funding for creative businesses, and tax incentives. And PATPA corrects tax policy to ensure artists can deduct the cost of unreimbursed business expenses.

EDUCATION
The U.S. economy works best when future workers are fully prepared—including in the arts, creativity, and innovation. Three of the bills expand and increase access to education in the arts, creativity, and innovation for all Americans.

AEFA calls for universal arts education and rigorous research to measure and improve impact. CERA provides support to both in-school and community arts education, particularly of marginalized histories and heritages. And PLACE authorizes Creative Economy Apprenticeship Grants under the Department of Education to helping teach the next generation of creative economy workforce and advance creativity as a tool for future innovation and competitive edge.
COMMUNITY AND SECTOR IMPACT

If passed, or adapted into other legislation, these policies would provide significant opportunity for creative workers and businesses, create positive economic and social ripple effects in American communities, and support a healthier, fuller, and more financially sustainable cultural life for all.

### FINANCIAL IMPACT

|$3.5b+| in federal funds would be made more accessible to creative businesses for growth capital, skill building, relief, recovery, etc.

|$919.7b| current annual amount generated by the creative economy to the U.S. GDP—which could be supercharged with better federal investment.

|83%| of every $1 invested in creative entrepreneurs is re-invested locally—producing a high-return investment that better every U.S. community.

### POLICY IMPACT

|15+| federal departments would become more accessible to creative work through these bills, boosting the sector’s innovative potential.

|30+| non-arts sectors that would benefit from policy support of the creative economy, including education, health, and tourism and hospitality.

|100’s| of documented positive impacts of creative economy-supportive policy: higher test scores, rising property values, stronger social cohesion, and more.

### HUMAN IMPACT

|5.1m| people in the U.S. are creative workers, over a third of whom are independent workers or entrepreneurs, all of whom are essential to local economies.

|330m| people—which is to say every American—take part in and are bettured economically, professionally, and socially by creative work.

|86%| of Americans agree that creative organizations are important to local businesses and the economy, whether they engage with the arts themselves or not.

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**A MOVEMENT FOR ALL—WITHIN AND BEYOND THE CREATIVE SECTOR**

Collectively these bills have over 400 endorsements from not only the creative sector but labor, housing, community development, planning, and business. Some of the driving organizations include: the Get Creative Workers Working Coalition, Be An Arts Hero/Arts Workers United, the Performing Arts Alliance, Americans for the Arts, the National Association of Music Merchants, Grantmakers in the Arts, the Freelancers Union, the American Planning Association, the National Alliance of Economic and Community Development Associations, and Transportation 4 America/SmartGrowth America.

Learn more about why good policy for the creative economy is good for all Americans at [http://www.creativeworkers.net](http://www.creativeworkers.net).

This Explainer was produced by Americans for the Arts. Find out more at [AmericansForTheArts.org](http://www.americansforthearts.org)
U.S. Conference of Mayors

89th Annual Meeting

In Support of the Creative Economy Revitalization Act (CERA)

- WHEREAS, the United States must help mitigate creative worker displacement, stimulate local creative workforce growth, strengthen connections for local arts, culture, creative small businesses and networks, create a pipeline for new arts, culture and creative jobs, enrich communities, increase access to culture, and invest in artists and other creative workers, as well as local economies, harmed by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, in addition to being an economic driver of 4.3% of the country's GDP, arts and culture have significant economic, social, and individual impact. The presence of arts and culture drives additional spending on local businesses, restaurants, and hotels, increase property values and improves education outcomes for students, boosts community pride and social cohesion, and inspires political and social activation; and

WHEREAS, during the COVID-19 crisis, artists were greatly displaced. At the height of the pandemic, two-thirds of all creative workers (2.7 million people) were completely unemployed, and even now the unemployment rate of the sector remains 3-4 times the national rate. At the height of the pandemic in 2020, 63% experienced unemployment. Creative economy jobs employment dropped by 53%, and have only recovered about half of that to date; and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Teresa Leger-Fernandez of New Mexico has introduced a new bill entitled Creative Economy Revitalization Act (CERA) that seeks to both support and employ artists and creative workers and strengthen local economies by galvanizing and investing in a civic infrastructure fueled by creative workers and a recovering creative workforce; and

WHEREAS, the CERA legislation will get creative workers back into jobs by creating a workforce grants program within the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. The legislation will require that grantees create art that is publicly accessible such as free concert series, large-scale murals, photography exhibits, published stories or dance performances; and

WHEREAS, the grants proposed in CERA would go to local, state, and tribal agencies, workforce investment boards, and public or private nonprofit entities who would hire local creative workers and produce publicly-available creative projects that meet local needs and priorities; and

WHEREAS, CERA was developed in collaboration with many partners in the creative
economy, including the Get Creative Workers Working coalition, which is made up of 200 local, state, and national cultural organizations and agencies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports any and all efforts to get creative workers working again, including enactment of the Creative Economy Revitalization Act of 2021, or the "CERA Act".

U.S. Conference of Mayors

89th Annual Meeting

Urging Increased Support for Arts and Cultural Institutions in our Nation's Rebuilding and Recovery

- WHEREAS, this pandemic has severely impacted our cities in many ways with crippling impacts on artists, arts workers and our arts and cultural organizations, who are integral to enabling our communities to survive and thrive economically, culturally and emotionally; and

WHEREAS, it is our arts and cultural communities that are helping address social isolation and mental health issues, providing direct health benefits to our communities, from seniors to children, and members of our society who are under-resourced, hard to count, and more vulnerable now than they have ever been; and

WHEREAS, the country is at grave risk of permanently losing essential arts and cultural organizational partners that are critical to our national identity and are essential to accelerate our regional recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, as our nation moves forward, we have a singular opportunity to integrate arts, culture and the creative economy into our national recovery and revitalization efforts; recognizing the great value of purposefully integrating artists and arts organizations into community revitalization efforts; bringing deeper understanding to the catalytic value of artists and the arts in developing stronger and more equitable communities; and

WHEREAS, new initiatives across the country continue to confirm the irrefutable benefit that comes when we firmly position the arts at the table with land-use, transportation, economic development, education, housing, infrastructure, health, climate change, diversity and public safety strategies; and

WHEREAS, the hardest year for the arts and culture industry in many ways is ahead as government orders to shut down disappear, eligibility for key federal aid will disappear;
WHEREAS, keeping critical federal support open through 2022 ensures the arts have resources to aid in the recovery and rebuilding of our communities; and

WHEREAS, as Congress and the Administration formulates future infrastructure and recovery packages, greater relief is needed for the recovery of our arts and culture communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to provide increased COVID-19 relief and recovery support for the arts and culture sector. Specifically, mayors urge for legislative relief that:

- Identifies opportunities for artists and arts organizations to be supported by federal programs for infrastructure, education, job creation, and health, coordinating with the Departments of Education, Commerce, Transportation, HUD, Labor, Agriculture, Energy, Justice, EPA, and State; the NEA, NEH, IMLS, and other cultural agencies; local and state government partners; and tribal governments.
- Extends the ERTC beyond 2021 and modifies nonprofit eligibility beyond the current gross receipts test to reflect the increased costs charitable organizations experience as they struggle to maintain or expand services to meet local needs throughout the health and economic crisis.
- Invests in reopening the creative economy to enable innovation and supports dedicated relief resources for nonprofit organizations and their workforce, as proposed in the WORK Now Act (S. 740 / H.R.1987) and emerging legislation that will support the creative workforce.
- Supports the nonprofit arts infrastructure and increases charitable giving by expanding the above-the-line, universal charitable deduction tax incentive through significantly increasing the cap and extending the provision at least through 2022 (S. 618 / HR.1704 /H.R. 1081 ).
- Enacts policies that will ensure rapid processing of the artist visas and consular appointments that are essential to supporting international cultural activity.
- Creates positions within the Executive branch and inter-agency coordination to support the arts, culture, and creative economy, with particular attention to relief and recovery efforts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, mayors see all too clearly that we cannot survive without connection. We have the opportunity to bring the full power of the creative sector to help develop and deploy policy that advances an equitable recovery, nurtures our collective wellbeing, and cultivates a better tomorrow.
Letter from 113 Chambers of Commerce in Support of Creative Workforce

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker United States House of Representatives 1236 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer, Leader United States Senate 322 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Leader United States House of Representatives 2468 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Leader United States Senate 317 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders Schumer, McConnell, and McCarthy:

Thank you for your leadership and continued work to protect Americans, stabilize the economy, and ensure the survival of key institutions and sectors during this challenging time. We represent a group of 113 chambers of commerce from 46 states collectively working with over 33 million employers, employees, and businesses of all sizes and industries to respond to our national public health and economic crisis.

The 2020 CARES Act and the new American Rescue Plan Act provided much-needed relief to many of our members, however, there are critical gaps in the aid that fail to meet the needs of the creative economy and cultural infrastructure. A report from the Brookings Institution found that the country’s 670,000 creative economy businesses (which generate $919.7 billion each year towards the GDP) have collectively lost at least $150 billion, and that over half of all workers in the creative sector remain unemployed.

Johns Hopkins University and the international Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development warn that the creative sector is among the most impacted industries in the country—with damaging ripple effects to restaurants, tourism, travel, and local businesses. Bureau of Economic Analysis data shows that the sector contracted by 59% between the end of 2019 and mid-2020—twice the rate of other highly impacted industries—and is rebounding at a slower rate.

We request that the U.S. Congress work swiftly to enact the following provisions within the infrastructure and recovery package known as the American Jobs Plan. These proposals echo the Put Creative Workers to Work policy platform endorsed by over 2,300 creative businesses and creative workers in all 50 states.

- Allocate $14 billion to incentivize local, state, and tribal businesses and governments to put creative workers to work and activate cultural infrastructure, including hiring or tax credits to incentivize businesses and local and state agencies to accelerate
hiring, re-hiring, or retention of creative workers; funds to incentivize financial institutions to invest in small creative businesses and creative entrepreneurs; grants to cover restart costs for small creative businesses and provide capital for the creation of new creative product to be sold; and support for local and state creative workforce programs.

- Allocate $3 billion to spark an American cultural renaissance via the NEA, NEH, IMLS, and other federal agencies, including through creative jobs, fellowships, residencies, and commissions designed to drive local economic growth and community cohesion, produce free entertainment to encourage local spending, and incentivize local and state workforce development and infrastructure programs.

- Allocate $1 billion in arts and creativity-based education for recovery via the Department of Education, including a bridge program to incentivize retention of arts educators within education infrastructure.

- Direct the Federal Reserve to broaden their nonprofit lending facility under the Main Street Lending Program to specifically benefit mid-size nonprofits to those with more than 500 employees, and a loan forgiveness option.

As we face the road to economic recovery, we must prioritize creative infrastructure and the sector of creative and cultural institutions, particularly because they will help drive the recovery of local small businesses and economies of all types. With key investments and funding, cultural institutions can push the recovery forward across the country.

Sincerely,

**Alabama**
Mobile Area Chamber, Mobile, AL

**Arkansas**
Greater Bentonville Area Chamber of Commerce, Bentonville, AR

**Arizona**
Visit Tucson, Tucson, AZ

**California**
Los Angeles Area Chamber, Los Angeles, CA
Orange County Business Council, Orange County, CA
Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce, Pacific Grove, CA
Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, Santa Monica, CA
Colorado
Aurora Chamber of Commerce, Aurora, CO
Boulder Chamber of Commerce, Boulder, CO
Crested Butte Chamber of Commerce, Crested Butte, CO

Connecticut
Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce, Bristol, CT
Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce, Norwalk, CT
MetroHartford Alliance, Hartford, CT

Florida
AMPLIFY Clearwater, Clearwater, FL
Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, Miami, FL
Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, Lakeland, FL

Georgia
Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Atlanta, GA

Hawaii
Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI
Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

Idaho
Boise Metro Chamber, Boise, ID

Illinois
Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Joliet, IL
Oak Lawn Chamber of Commerce, Chicago, IL
Oak Park - River Forest Chamber of Commerce, Oak Park, IL
The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Springfield, IL

Indiana
Indy Chamber, Indianapolis, IN
Southwest Indiana Chamber of Commerce, Evansville, IN

Iowa
DuBuque Area Chamber of Commerce, DuBuque, IA
Iowa City Area Business Partnership, Iowa City, IA

Kansas
Salina Area Chamber of Commerce, Salina, KS
Kentucky
Greater Louisville Inc., Louisville, KY

Louisiana
Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, Shreveport, LA

Maryland
Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce, Gaithersburg, MD

Massachusetts
Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, Cape Cod, MA
Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, Boston,
MA Middlesex West Chamber of Commerce,
Acton, MA Nashoba Valley Chamber of
Commerce, Littleton, MA
Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce, Springfield,
MA Stoneham Chamber of Commerce, Stoneham, MA
Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, Worcester, MA

Michigan
Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber, Ann
Arbor, MI Detroit Regional Chamber, Detroit, MI
Flint & Genesee Group, Flint, MI
Saginaw County Chamber of Commerce, Saginaw, MI

Minnesota
Minneapolis Regional Chamber, Minneapolis,
MN St. Paul Area Chamber, St. Paul, MN

Mississippi
Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Gulfport, MS

Missouri
Greater St. Louis, Inc., St. Louis, MO

Montana
Billings Chamber of Commerce, Billings, MT

Nebraska
Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce, Kearney, NE

Nevada
Carson City Chamber of Commerce, Carson City,
NV Reno + Sparks Chamber of Commerce, Reno,
NV Urban Chamber of Commerce, Las Vegas,
NV

New Hampshire
Greater Concord Chamber of Commerce, Concord,
NH Greater Manchester Chamber, Manchester, NH

New Jersey

New York

North Carolina
Boone Area Chamber of Commerce, Boone, NC Carolina Foothills Chamber of Commerce, Tryon, NC Carteret County Chamber of Commerce, Morehead City, NC Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, Raleigh, NC The Chamber, Leading Business in Cabarrus, Concord, NC Tyrrell County Chamber of Commerce, Columbia, NC Wake Forest Area Chamber of Commerce, Wake Forest, NC

Ohio
Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, Cincinnati, OH

Oklahoma
Greater Oklahoma City Chamber, Oklahoma City, OK

Oregon
Portland Business Alliance, Portland, OR

Pennsylvania
Allentown Chamber of Commerce, Allentown, PA Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce, Bethlehem, PA East Penn Area Chamber of Commerce, Lehigh Valley, PA Easton Area Chamber of Commerce, Easton, PA Emmaus Main Street Partners, Emmaus, PA Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership,
Erie, PA Greater Bath Area Chamber of Commerce, Bath, PA
Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, Lehigh Valley, PA
Greater Northern Lehigh Chamber of Commerce, Lehigh Valley, PA
Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, Pittsburgh, PA
Hellertown-Lower Saucon Chamber of Commerce, Hellertown, PA
Nazareth Business Council, Nazareth, PA
Northampton Area Chamber of Commerce, Northampton, PA
Southern Lehigh Chamber of Commerce, Lehigh Valley, PA
Western Lehigh Chamber of Commerce, Lehigh Valley, PA

Rhode Island
Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce, Newport, RI
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce, Providence, RI

South Carolina
Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, North Charleston, SC
Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce, Columbia, SC
Greensboro Chamber of Commerce, Greensboro, SC
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce, Hilton Head, SC

Tennessee
Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce, Chattanooga, TN

Texas
Greater Houston Partnership, Houston, TX
McAllen Chamber of Commerce, McAllen, TX
Rio Grande Valley Partnership, Weslaco, TX
San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio, TX

Utah
Cache Valley Chamber of Commerce, Logan, UT

Virginia
ChamberRVA, Richmond, VA
Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Tysons, VA
Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, Mount Vernon, WA

Washington
Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Seattle, WA
Thurston County Chamber, Olympia, WA

West Virginia
Huntington Regional Chamber of Commerce, Huntington, WV
West Virginia Chamber of Commerce, Charleston, WV

**Wisconsin**
Envision Greater Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac, WI
Fox Cities Chamber of Commerce, Appleton, WI
Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce, Madison, WI

**Wyoming**
Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce, Cheyenne, WY