



## THE CREATIVE BACKBONE OF THE U.S. IS BREAKING BUT CREATIVE WORKERS CONTINUE TO ANSWER THE CALL

SURVEY RESULTS FROM OVER 10,000 ARTS ORGANIZATIONS AND OVER 11,000 CREATIVE WORKERS

### When arts and culture organizations cannot open, communities suffer.

**\$4.8 billion** direct financial losses for nonprofit arts organizations  
*(est. to date)*

**201 million** lost admissions  
*(due to cancelled or postponed events, est. to date)*

**\$6.4 billion** lost ancillary spending  
*(due to cancelled or postponed events, est. to date)*

**\$1.9 billion** lost government revenue  
*(federal, state, and local combined, est. to date)*

**95%** have cancelled events

**66%** expect this crisis to have a severe impact on their organization

### Artists and creative workers are under significant strain and distress.

**\$50.6 billion** estimated loss in artist/creative worker revenue in 2020  
**(\$24,000** per worker to date)

**62%** of artists and creative workers are fully unemployed because of COVID

**95%** have experienced income loss

**80%** have experienced declining creativity due to stress, access to supplies, or other increased responsibility

**80%** do not yet have a plan to recover

**53%** have no savings now

### And yet they continue to deploy their creativity to get communities through the crisis.

**75%** have used their creative practice to address community needs

**76%** have used their creativity to raise morale and create community cohesion

**55%** have done so without being paid or reimbursed for costs

**82%** will deploy their creativity to support the recovery (**more than half** whether they get paid or not)

### Creative workers' 4 greatest needs:

1. unemployment insurance
2. forgivable business loans
3. food/housing assistance
4. affordable healthcare

**“Even as the creative backbone of the United States is breaking financially, creative workers stand ready to be part of the recovery – often whether they’ll end up being paid or not. However, they do need to be paid.** These survey results will prove to be a key piece to further our local, state, and federal policy efforts in the next phase of COVID-19 recovery.”

— Robert Lynch, President and CEO,  
Americans for the Arts

Data from *The Economic Impact of Coronavirus on the Arts and Culture Sector* and *The COVID-19 Impact Survey for Artists and Creative Workers*, as of April 21, 2020. For more, contact: [clord@artsusa.org](mailto:clord@artsusa.org).