

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0046
(916) 319-2046
FAX (916) 319-2146

DISTRICT OFFICE
6150 VAN NUYS BOULEVARD, SUITE 300
VAN NUYS, CA 91401
(818) 376-4246
FAX (818) 376-4252

Assembly California Legislature



ADRIN NAZARIAN
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FORTY-SIXTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,
TOURISM, AND INTERNET MEDIA
HEALTH
TRANSPORTATION
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 4 ON
STATE ADMINISTRATION

February 26, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Reopening Guidelines for live musical, theatrical, and other artistic performances

Dear Governor Newsom:

Thank you for your leadership to keep Californians safe during this unprecedented public health crisis. It has been close to a year that industries such as the performing arts have been closed in order to ensure the safety of the public. With the hope of widespread vaccinations, warmer months ahead and recent numbers showing progress in controlling the spread of the virus, we urge that the administration issues reopening guidelines for the performing arts industries.

There are close to 7000 nonprofit performing arts organizations in California. Prior to COVID-19, every community in California benefitted from the economic, social and emotional benefits of the arts. The shutdowns have caused devastating economic impact to this industry that money alone cannot solve. We must give the performing arts sector an opportunity to recover and restart by providing the guidelines to reopen.

The performing arts are professionals in moving people through venues and providing protocols to emphasize patron and performer safety. Since the shutdown there have been many studies that prove with proper airflow and ventilation, it is safe to even open indoors at limited capacity. We ask that you work with the industry experts to develop guidelines that address the myriad configurations in which the arts present and produce live events. Issuing guidelines for performing arts is a critical and urgent need for California.

As scholastic outdoor sports prepare to reopen, we must give the same opportunities to our dance and drama students to exercise their craft. Since restaurants, bars and bowling alleys have guidelines for resuming business, we should provide the same opportunity to the performing arts centers and theatres to safely reopen. Furthermore, entertainment labor unions have approved

guidelines for performers that have been developed here in California with a Los Angeles County task force that includes outdoor performances at approved partner venues such as Botanical Gardens in the substantial tier to limited capacity audiences indoors at the minimal tiers.


No individual in the arts sector wants to open before it is safe to do so. Issuing guidelines by tier offers a road map to recovery. Providing guidelines so that the performing arts industry can both prepare to reopen and understand what is required of them to reopen safely is imperative. Putting on a live show takes months of rehearsal and preparation, so even if they cannot open today, they will need the time to plan for reopening.

In our communities, our local public health officials are looking to the state for guidance as they do not have the capacity to create their own guidelines for each arts event. The blueprint currently indicates that “performances are permitted only if, in the exercise of their discretion, the relevant local or city health officer approves the precautions taken to ensure the safety of audience members, performers and others connected with the performance.” It is simply not scalable to create one off guidelines, nor is it equitable for guidelines to be created for some but not all. With consistent state guidelines, all counties are operating from the same playbook. This is a more reasonable practice and safer for everyone.

California is one of the few remaining states without guidelines for the performing arts. Washington issued theirs in early 2021 and New York announced reopening of large-scale events at 10% capacity as early as March of this year. Additionally, England’s recent roadmap to recovery includes the possibility of lower capacity events by May 17 and full reopening with testing before the end of June.

We look forward to working with the administration to help get the performing arts on the roadmap to recovery by issuing guidelines as quickly as possible so that this vital sector can prepare to reopen in parity with other industries in California.

Sincerely,



ADRIN NAZARIAN

Member, 46th Assembly District



SHARON QUIRK-SILVA

Member, 65th Assembly District



MONIQUE LÍMON

Member, 19th Senate District



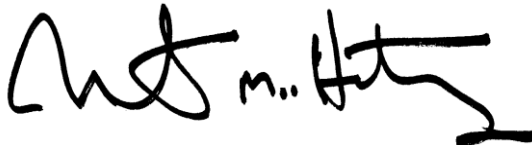
THOMAS LACKEY
Member, 36th Assembly District



BRIAN JONES
Member, 38th Senate District



STEVEN CHOI
Member, 68th Assembly District



ROBERT HERTZBERG
Member, 18th Senate District



JANET NGUYEN
Member, 72nd Assembly District



BEN ALLEN
Member, 26th Senate District



ASH KALRA
Member, 27th Assembly District



PHILIP TING
Member, 19th Assembly District



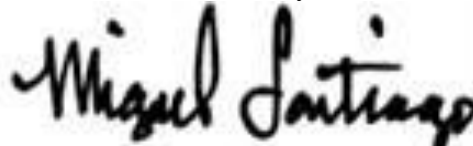
MARC LEVINE
Member, 10th Assembly District



JORDAN CUNNINGHAM
Member, 35th Assembly District



CHRIS HOLDEN
Member, 41st Assembly District



MIGUEL SANTIAGO
Member, 53rd Assembly District



RICHARD BLOOM
Member, 50th Assembly District



BUFFY WICKS
Member, 15th Assembly District

The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor of California
February 26, 2021
Page 4

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Chau', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

ED CHAU
Member, 49th Assembly District