



August 7, 2020

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senate

The Honorable Martha McSally
United States Senate

The Honorable Tom O'Halleran
United States Congress

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
United States Congress

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
United States Congress

The Honorable Paul Gosar
United States Congress

The Honorable Andy Biggs
United States Congress

The Honorable David Schweikert
United States Congress

The Honorable Ruben Gallego
United States Congress

The Honorable Debbie Lesko
United States Congress

The Honorable Greg Stanton
United States Congress

Dear Members of the Arizona Congressional Delegation:

We write today seeking your support on two pieces of pending, bi-partisan legislation that are critical to the economic stability and well-being of Tucson. These bills are S. 4258, the Save Our Stages (SOS) Act introduced by Senators Cornyn and Klobuchar, and S. 3814/H.R. 7481, the RESTART Act, introduced by Senators Young and Bennet in the Senate, and Representatives Golden and Kelly in the House. Thank you very much to those of you who are already co-sponsoring this legislation.

With Tucson's designation in 2015 as a UNESCO City of Gastronomy, our local venues and performing arts organizations were flourishing before the pandemic hit, bringing new locally-owned restaurants, hotels, residential complexes and large businesses, such as Caterpillar, to our downtown and other areas of the city. Our local arts and culture scene have been important economic drivers to the community. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has

caused all arts venues and many restaurants to close, and they will be unable to re-open without your help.

The Payroll Protection Program (PPP) did not work for local venues and performing arts organizations because the nature of their business models require large groups of people to congregate – which is strictly prohibited – causing them to close. These valuable organizations and venues need long-term support that can pay for overhead costs. The SOS Act and RESTART Act both offer more flexible assistance that is not available under PPP. Venues across the country are experiencing upwards of 90% revenue loss and will be closed well into 2021 due to safety concerns posed by large gatherings. According to the National Independent Venue Association, without support from Congress, 90% of independent venues across America say they will be forced to close their doors forever in the absence of financial relief.

This would be devastating for Tucson's economy. Independent venues and performing arts organizations are economic multipliers, community builders, and beloved institutions that are at the heart of Tucson's cultural and economic fabric. The devastation of these venues closing permanently would also impact the entire music economy and cultural ecosystem in America – artists, talent agents, stagehands, security, catering, artist managers, the tour bus industry, production, radio/social media/tv/print advertising, record companies, and many others.

We are respectfully asking you to support and cosponsor S. 4258, the Save Our Stages Act and S. 3814/H.R. 7481, the RESTART Act. Doing so, would ensure that independent venues and performing arts organizations receive the financial assistance needed to re-open their doors and resume performances when it is safe to do so.

Thank you for your diligent work for Arizona and Tucson during these difficult times.

In Community,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Regina Romero', written in a cursive style.

Tucson Mayor Regina Romero

Bonnie Schock – Executive Director, Fox Tucson Theatre
Adriana Gallego – Executive Director, Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona
Geri Wright – Managing Director, Arizona Theatre Company
Cynthia Meier – Managing & Associate Artistic Director, The Rogue Theatre
Steven Haines – President & CEO, Tucson Symphony Orchestra
Curtis McCrary – Executive Director, The Rialto Theatre Foundation

Joseph McGrath – Artistic Director, The Rogue Theatre
Kris Kerry – Talent Buyer, Rialto Theatre
LeighAnn Sotomayor – Center for the Arts manager, Pima Community College Center for the Arts
Susan Claassen – Managing Artistic Director, Invisible Theatre
Ryan Lameyer – CEO, Phenomenon Concerts
Stephen Chilton – Owner, Psyko Steve Presents
Daniel Hernandez – Talenty Buyer/Manager, 191 Toole
Justin M Carroll – Ballet Tucson
Vivian VanPeenen – Board Member, Ballet Tucson
Bryan Falcon – Artistic and Managing Director, The Scoundrel and Scamp Theatre
Kate Marquez – Executive Director, Southern Arizona Arts & Cultural Alliance
Jonathon Crider – Executive Director, Tucson Pops Orchestra
Glenn Grabski – General Manager, Tucson Convention Center
Sharon O'Brien – Artistic Director, Literacy Connects
Nancy March – Board President, True Concord Voices and Orchestra
Michael Martinez – Executive Director, Live Theatre Workshop
Thomas R. Moulton – Executive Director, Southern Arizona Attractions Alliance
Kaety Byerley – Vice President, Arizona Friends of Chamber Music
Joseph Thomas Tolliver – President of the Board of Directors/Program Director, Arizona Friends of Chamber Music
David Slutes – Entertainment Director, Hotel Congress
Andrew Schulz – Vice President Arizona Arts & Dean, College of Fine Arts
Chad Herzog – Executive Director, UA Presents/Centennial Hall
Herb Stratford – President, Historic Theatre Consultants
Leia Maahs – Managing Director, Southwest Folklife Alliance Inc. (dba Tucson Meet Yourself Folklife Festival)
Kris Siuda – Director of Marketing & Events, Marshall Foundation
Fred Martinez – Manager, El Casino Ballroom
Lisa Hastreiter-Lamb – Executive Director, The Mini Time Machine Museum of Miniatures
Mary-Gray Lopez – Office Manager, Tucson Arizona Boys Chorus
Chris Seidman – Executive Director, Unscrewed Theater
Eileen Bagnall – Executive Director, ARTabilityAX
Jenni Sunshine – President, Valley of the Moon
Brandon Howell – Managing Director, Arizona Rose Theatre
Shelly Hawkins – Artistic Director, Hawkindsdance
Michelle G. Conkin – Executive Director, Tucson Botanical Gardens
Jill Brammer – Owner, Che's Lounge
Peggy Johnson – Executive Director, Loft Cinema, Inc.
Diane P Perry – President, Tucson Kitchen Musicians Association
Bryan Castle – Owner, Movement Culture & Tucson Capoeira
Lynn Davis – Executive Director, Sonoran Glass School
Evan Mendelson – Past President, Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona
Richard Miller – Chair, Executive Committee, Sons of Orpheus
Barclay Goldsmith – Member, Tucson Labyrinth Theater Project

Yurika Isoe – Board member, Warehouses Arts Management Organization
Anne Breckenridge Barrett – Associate Vice President for the Arts and Director of the Center for Creative Photography
Em Martin Brott – Executive Director, The Drawing Studio
Marc D Pinate – Producing Artistic Director, Borderlands Theater
Patricia Deridder – Executive Director, Yume Japanese Gardens of Tucson
Karen Falkenstrom – Director, Odaiko Sonora / Rhythm Industry Performance Factory
Patricia Young – Immediate Past Chairman, Board of Directors Tucson Youth Music Center
Patricia Young – Treasurer, Tucson Postpartum Depression Coalition
Yvonne Montoya – Director, Safos Dance Theatre
Kenneth Rosenblatt – President, Arizona Repertory Singers
Karen F. Wiese – Executive Director, Arts Express Inc
Jeremy Mikolajczak – CEO, Tucson Museum of Art
Brandi Haga-Blackman – Director, Admin Rio Nuevo
Christine Conte – Executive Director, Tohono Chul
Michael Vietinghoff – Founding Director, Unscrewed Theater
Dawn Vandaveer – Board President, FEATSAZ - Festivals + Events Association of Tucson & Southern Arizona
Nancy Kluge – President and CEO, Reid Park Zoological Society
John Salgado – President, Raices Taller 222 Art Gallery & Workshop
Laura Copelin – Executive Director and Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson
Krystyna Parafinczuk – Treasurer, Tucson Jazz Music Foundation
Scott Black – Co-owner, Tucson Jazz Institute
Ann Conway – FST! Female StoryTellers