

Letter Template to Legislators

(For Arts & Cultural Organizations, Supporters and Participants)

Dear [Choose either Representative or Senator] **[insert name]**,

Thank you for the work you are doing in the Legislature to help Iowans to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am writing to you today on behalf of **[insert arts organization]** or as a supporter of the arts. This community's vibrant and diverse community employs more than 42,000 Iowans working in 5,000+ for-profit and non-profit businesses.

As the **[insert role]** with the **[insert your organization name]**, I have seen firsthand how the pandemic has impacted our community and sector. Artists and nonprofit organizations, particularly those dependent on revenue from contract work and earned income, have been especially hard-hit by cancellations, closures, and lost opportunities.

According to a recent survey of Iowa cultural organizations:

- Iowa arts and cultural organizations incurred financial losses of at least \$31.2 million as of August 26, 2020;
- 95% have reported cancelling events, impacting more than 1.2 M Iowans;
- Organizations have lost about 2.7 million attendees since March
- More than 1,400 arts and creative workers have been furloughed or laid off in Iowa;

Our industry is incredibly resourceful and resilient, but with so many revenue sources threatened at once, it's extraordinarily challenging for this important workforce to navigate.

More than that, the ripple effect that the arts have on tourism and local spending – which, in a good year, accounts for 2.2% of Iowa's economy (a larger share than construction) – is an added challenge for communities.

We recognize that you have tough choices ahead of you. As you evaluate many proposals for assistance in months ahead, we ask that you keep the arts and creative sector in mind and continue to fund the important grants to help our organizations and our state's economy get back on their feet.

Thank you,

Type your name