

Connecticut Performing Arts Centers Stabilization Program

The State is blessed with six urban-based regional performing arts centers - The Bushnell, Palace Theater Waterbury, Shubert, Palace Theatre Stamford, Warner Theatre, and the Garde Arts Center. These venerable institutions are collectively recognized by their respective Mayors as key cultural anchors of the urban economic recovery plan for their cities, and the regions they serve - greater Hartford, Waterbury, New Haven, Stamford, Torrington and New London regions respectively.

In aggregate, the performing arts centers generate annually:

- 750,000 in attendance, 88% of which are residents of Connecticut
- \$50 million of direct local economic spend, and with industry standard economic multiplier the impact approaches \$350 million
- 112 Full Time Jobs, 317 Part Time Jobs, 702 Seasonal Workers, 1905 Volunteers, and 1140 contract workers
- Facilities and services for about 426 regional organizations, schools and smaller arts nonprofits, as well as businesses and civic organizations.

As the largest non-profit cultural venues in the State, they have received over the years significant State investments to maximize their capacity and regional impact.

These venues were the first to close on March 13th due to COVID-19, and will be the last to reopen, and likely not to full capacity until the summer or fall of 2021. Many events have been cancelled and some have been postponed until late 2021, and into 2022.

Since March, with public health foremost in mind, these organizations have been forced to cut staff and overhead to minimal operating levels, while continuing to pursue private support. Despite best efforts, to date, due to closure, the six performing arts centers have lost almost \$7 million in revenue and 2,165 jobs.

To prevent potential bankruptcy or dissolution due to the extended shutdown, the CEOs of these six organizations, with the support of their Mayors and COGs, developed a coordinated state-wide urban arts recovery plan. Unlike most other states, these facilities have no county government funding sources, and the cities do not have the resources at the scale needed to sustain each regional entity. Should the State's performing arts centers be shuttered with plywood, the State would lose its decades of investment while further threatening the regional and state economic recovery. The loss of these organizations will decimate the State's economic strength for years to come.

Consequently, based on forecasted monthly losses over a 12 month period of \$16 million, these institutions are seeking a State relief loan or grant in aggregate of \$10,000,000 that will provide each, proportionate to their need, the necessary liquidity to sustain minimal operations through July 2021. The Governor and State legislature can prevent the inevitability of institutional liquidation, and ensure these performing arts centers are ready to operate when they will be most needed by the State.

**The Mayors Representing
Connecticut's Performing Arts Centers**

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