

July 28, 2020

To: Orange County Congressional Delegation

RE: Inclusion of Nonprofit Arts Organizations in New and Renewed Federal Assistance Packages

Orange County Business Council (OCBC) applauds the leadership of Orange County's Representatives as Orange County once again endures an economic shutdown. OCBC has reached out to your offices regarding several priorities from the business community as Congress and the Senate negotiate "phase four" of COVID-19 relief. In addition to those recommendations, **OCBC respectfully urges all of you to advocate for the inclusion of support for nonprofit arts organizations in new and renewed federal assistance policies.**

Orange County is home to numerous highly successful nonprofit arts programs and organizations, including Pacific Symphony, Pacific Chorale, ArtsOC, The Wooden Floor and many others. Each of them are essential components of Orange County's cultural identity. In fact, OCBC's theme for 2019—"The Art of Business, The Business of Art"—emphasized just how vital arts and creativity are for the success of businesses and residents. The region's arts organizations are suffering substantial financial losses. Even as they innovate to find new ways to contribute to the community from a distance, nonprofits may not be able to continue their mission and support their artists without federal assistance.

OCBC strongly supports arts and nonprofit access to COVID-19 relief. This includes eligibility for relief funding, refundable tax credits and forgivable loans for nonprofits of all sizes to support workers, operating costs and mission-critical activity. OCBC also encourages Congress to increase charitable giving incentives and provide critically-needed education and broadband resources that enable more equitable access for all. Connectivity enables more equitable participation in artistic, educational and cultural activities taking place almost exclusively online.

Like many businesses, arts nonprofits are reeling from COVID-19's economic impacts. **The survival of these cultural cornerstones depends on congressional action.** Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Ward
Sr. Vice President of Government Affairs
Orange County Business Council