



COVID-19 and Boston's Arts Sector

Friday, August 7, 2020

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Mayor Martin J. Walsh

As of August 7, 2020, there are 14,405 confirmed cases (+28 from day before) of COVID-19 in Boston residents. 10,412 (+21) of those have fully recovered and 736 (+1) have died. ([City COVID-19 Dashboard](#))

- Governor Baker is signing an updated gatherings order, effective Tuesday, August 11, which will:
 - *Reduce the limit on outdoor gatherings from 100 to 50 people (indoor gatherings limit will remain at 25 people)*
 - *Apply these limits to all types of gatherings, on both public and private property*
 - *Require face coverings where more than 10 people from different households will be mixing.*
- Rhode Island is no longer considered “lower risk” in terms of travel order
- A map of testing sites and information can be found at boston.gov/coronavirus.
 - *Mobile COVID-19 testing sites open to anyone, regardless of symptoms. Mayor's Health Line is 617-534-5050.*
- **Reopened Opportunity Fund - grants of up to \$1,000 for artists**

Early voting runs from **Saturday, August 22 through Friday, August 28.**


- Any voter registered in Boston can vote at any early voting location.
- City Hall will be open for voting Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., during the time period. On Tuesday and Thursday, City Hall will stay open until 8 p.m. for early voting.
- Early voting "pop-up" polling locations will also be available throughout the City on Tuesday and Thursday. Those locations will be open from 12 - 8 p.m.
- Saturday, August 22, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. is the last day to register to vote and Wednesday, August 26 is the deadline to [request a vote-by-mail ballot](#).
 - *All registered voters have received a vote-by-mail application in their mail boxes during the week of July 20, 2020. The application is in a postcard format. To receive a ballot, voters must first complete, sign and return the prepaid postcard application to the Election Department by August 26, 2020 for the State Primary. Voters may request a ballot using the vote-by-mail application for the September 1, 2020 State Primary, November 3, 2020 State Election or all 2020 elections.*

FEDERAL & STATE FUNDING AND ADVOCACY

Emily Ruddock, MassCreative



FEDERAL

	HEROES Act	HEALS Act
	Passed by House on 5/15	Released by Senate on 7/28
State and Local Funding	\$875 Billion (\$500B State, \$375B Local)	No Funding 25% of CRF for gov. lost revenue If 25% allocated "downstream"
2nd Round of Payroll Protection Program	Not included	Must show a 50% loss for a Quarter: 2019 vs. 2020, less than 300 employees; Loan equal to 2.5 months payroll; Forgivable expenses incurred over period of the 8 weeks borrower prefers; Up to 40% of forgivable expenses can be non-payroll costs (rent, utilities, etc.)
Extend Federal Unemployment	Extends FPUC (additional \$600 on top of regular unemployment) thru Jan. 31, 2020	Cuts FPUC to \$200 until October 1st when States pay 70% of avg. wages up to \$500.
Unemployment Self-Insured	50% of self-insured nonprofit costs covered, fixes the language that NPO would have to pay full amount and then be reimbursed.	75% of self-insured nonprofit costs covered
National Endowment for the Arts and Other Agencies	NEA: \$10 Million, NEH: \$10 Million, IMLS: \$5 Million	Corporation for Public Broadcasting: \$175 Million
Liability Protection	None	Protects businesses, nonprofits, schools, etc. if guidelines reasonably followed Protects health care and manufacturing Protects employers from worker claims
Individual Stimulus	\$1,200 individual, \$2,400 file jointly, \$500 per dependent	\$1,200 individual, \$2,400 file jointly, \$500 per dependent

FEDERAL

[Americans for the Arts Action Alert](#): ensure provisions for arts and cultural sector (including workers) are included.

[Chambers of Commerce letter to Congressional Leadership](#)

- Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce
- Middlesex West Chamber of Commerce
- Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Springfield Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Stoneham Chamber of Commerce
- Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce

Email: eruddock@mass-creative.org

STATE

- **Baker Revised Gathering Order - announced today at 1pm**
 - We are in phase 3 step 1 indefinitely
 - Gatherings capped at 50 people
 - This is for public and private events
 - Face coverings for gatherings of 10 or more with people from different households.
 - **Violation fines** increased from \$300 to \$500
 - 6-ft spacing at gatherings will now be "enforceable" by State and local police
 - "COVID Enforcement and Intervention Team" (this will include ABCC, State Police, MEMA, Command Center, Division of Labor, others); more information on metrics for when to intervene in "high risk communities" will be forthcoming next week
 - *Working on getting further sector specific guidance.*
- [#MaskUpMA campaign](#)
 - *How can we as a community support and encourage common sense public health requirements?*

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STATE

		An Act enabling partnerships for growth	
		H.4887	S.2842
Authorized Spending for Arts & Cultural Sector	\$11M total <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$6M, for artists and arts & cultural organizations to create new mediums to showcase their art, exhibits, expand remote platforms \$5M for public schools to virtually access arts and cultural experiences 	\$20M for a infrastructure and equipment to non-profit arts, cultural and tourism institutions and organizations.	
Study Commission on Impact of COVID-19 on Arts & Cultural Sector	Yes	No	
Authorized spending for cultural tourism administered by MOTT	\$10M <ul style="list-style-type: none"> facilities improvements for spaces that host in-state and out of state visitors 	\$10M <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing for in-state tourism promotion \$M for regional tourism councils 	
Film Tax Credit Extension	Not included	Not included	
Pre-Broadway Tryout Tax Credit Pilot Program	Not included	Not included	

STATE

- **Extended formal session for legislature**
 - Usually ends July 31st
 - For this year ends December 31st
- **What does this mean?**
 - More bill and legislative activity in the fall than we are used to.
 - FY21 state budget in the fall (probably)
 - Increased need for ongoing relationship building with lawmakers and their staffs

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STATE

ACTION TO TAKE FOR BOND BILL

- Now: [Contact Economic Development Bond Bill Conference Committee](#)
- August: Make a plan for building your relationship with your elected officials
- Later: Advocacy to Baker Administration for spending

Building advocacy into your work plan and organization

- Regularly sharing updates with your board and staff
- Social media - a resource you have
- Scheduling time to reach out to lawmakers
 - Don't wait until you need something
- Get creative!
- Make it personal - *impact on you, your artistic practice, your business & your community*
- Share the info and the data

CREATE THE VOTE

Create the Vote 2020 Steering Committee



ARTSBOSTON
TAKE YOURSELF TO A NEW PLACE



[Pledge to #Create the Vote](#)

YOU MATTER

MAKE IT COUNT #2020CENSUS

[Take the 2020 Census](#)

SEPTEMBER 30TH!!!

- **Reactions to reopening guidelines?**
- **Areas of concern?**
- **Any other questions?**

