COVID-19 and Boston’s Arts Sector

Friday, August 7, 2020
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State and Local Funding</th>
<th>HEROES Act Passed by House on 5/15</th>
<th>HEALS Act Released by Senate on 7/28</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Round of Payroll Protection Program</td>
<td>$875 Billion (Federal $500B State, $375B Local)</td>
<td>No Funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extends FPUC (additional $600 on top of regular unemployment) thru Jan. 31, 2020</td>
<td>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.)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Endowment for the Arts and Other Agencies</td>
<td>NEA: $10 Million, NEH: $10 Million, IMLS: $5 Million</td>
<td>Corporation for Public Broadcasting: $175 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liability Protection</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Protects businesses, nonprofits, schools, etc. if guidelines reasonably followed. Protects health care and manufacturing. Protects employers from worker claims</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Stimulus</td>
<td>$1,200 individual, $2,400 file jointly, $500 per dependent</td>
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FEDERAL & STATE FUNDING AND ADVOCACY
Emily Ruddock, MassCreative

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
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?
# FEDERAL & STATE FUNDING AND ADVOCACY

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## An Act enabling partnerships for growth

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<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Details</th>
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| H.4887 | $11M total  
- $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 |
| S.2842 | $20M for infrastructure and equipment to non-profit arts, cultural and tourism institutions and organizations |

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Authorized Spending for Arts &amp; Cultural Sector</th>
<th>Study Commission on Impact of COVID-19 on Arts &amp; Cultural Sector</th>
<th>Authorized spending for cultural tourism administered by MOTT</th>
<th>Film Tax Credit Extension</th>
<th>Pre-Broadway Tryout Tax Credit Pilot Program</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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### $11M Total

- $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 infrastructure and equipment to non-profit arts, cultural and tourism institutions and organizations

### $10M

- facilities improvements for spaces that host in-state and out of state visitors

### $10M

- Marketing for in-state tourism promotion
- $1M for regional tourism councils
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

Email: eruddock@mass-creative.org
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
FEDERAL & STATE FUNDING AND ADVOCACY
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CREATE
THE
VOTE

Create the Vote 2020 Steering Committee

YOU MATTER
MAKE IT COUNT
#2020CENSUS

Take the 2020 Census
SEPTEMBER 30TH!!!

Pledge to #Create the Vote
Questions and Comments

• Reactions to reopening guidelines?

• Areas of concern?

• Any other questions?