

April 28, 2020

Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
Office of the Speaker  
U.S. Capitol H-232  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Leader Kevin McCarthy  
Office of the Minority Leader  
U.S. Capitol H-204  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy,

We write to sincerely thank you for your support of museums, libraries, and cultural institutions in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Recovery (CARES) Act. As negotiations proceed on a fourth recovery package to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask that you continue to support the arts and cultural community. Providing additional financial assistance to this industry will give museums, libraries, theaters, concert halls, and other cultural institutions across the nation the stability they need to persevere through this unprecedented period and reopen once this crisis passes.

The arts and humanities are an integral part of American life. The United States is home to some of the most prestigious, innovative, and unique cultural institutions in the world. These institutions represent and reflect the broad range of cultural experiences in our country, from the Broadway theaters New York City, to the National Video Game Museum in Frisco, Texas, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham, Alabama, and the Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City. There are more than 35,000 museums in the United States that contribute 372,100 jobs and generate \$15 billion in annual income.<sup>1</sup> There are an additional 1,500 professional theaters across the country. The arts and cultural sector altogether comprises approximately 4.5 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP).<sup>2</sup>

As you know, on March 16<sup>th</sup> President Trump began calling on Americans to curtail all public gatherings and non-essential activities, expanding on “social distancing” guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Currently 38 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico are under stay-at-home orders in which residents are encouraged to leave their homes only for essential services, such as purchasing food or medicine. Museums and cultural institutions nationwide have likewise closed their doors indefinitely.

While these orders are absolutely necessary to protect public health and stop the spread of COVID-19, they are having a devastating impact on the nonprofit arts and cultural community. Nonprofit cultural institutions derive the majority of their revenue from patrons, and consequently face serious economic difficulty as they remain closed indefinitely. Without

---

<sup>1</sup> American Alliance of Museums, et al. “Museums as Economic Engines.” American Alliance of Museums, 2018, [www.aam-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/American-Alliance-of-Museums-web.pdf](http://www.aam-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/American-Alliance-of-Museums-web.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> “Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account, U.S. and States 2017.” *Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account, U.S. and States 2017* | U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2020, [www.bea.gov/news/2020/arts-and-cultural-production-satellite-account-us-and-states-2017](http://www.bea.gov/news/2020/arts-and-cultural-production-satellite-account-us-and-states-2017).

patronage, the earned revenue stream of nonprofit arts and cultural organizations – which includes fundraising, charitable donations, admissions ticket sales, and venue rentals – has completely disappeared.<sup>3</sup> The American Alliance of Museums estimates that the American museum community alone is losing \$33 million per day.

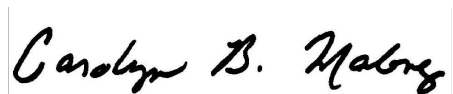
While the \$200 million in emergency funding for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is extremely helpful in slowing the financial collapse of the industry, arts and cultural organizations have nevertheless had to lay off hundreds of employees. This is deeply troubling for the American economy at large and additional resources are desperately needed.

We also ask that all nonprofit museums, libraries, and arts and cultural organizations be eligible to receive federal emergency assistance, regardless of whether they have received federal funding from the NEA, NEH, or IMLS in recent years. This will ensure that all members of the arts and cultural community can access the federal assistance they need.

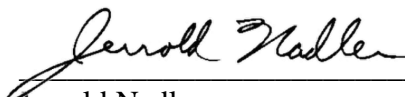
By providing additional emergency funding for the arts and cultural sector, we can enable our nation’s museums, libraries, theaters, performance halls, arts programs, and cultural institutions to outlast this pandemic and continue their invaluable roles in preserving American art, history, and culture.

We thank you for your attention to this matter, and for your work on behalf of the nation during this crisis.

Sincerely,



Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

/s/

Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress

/s/

Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress

---

<sup>3</sup>Bell, Ford W. “How Are Museums Supported Financially in the U.S.?” United States Department of State. United States Department of State - Bureau of International Information Programs, 2012.  
[https://photos.state.gov/libraries/amgov/133183/english/P\\_You\\_Asked\\_How\\_Are\\_Museums\\_Supported\\_Financially.pdf](https://photos.state.gov/libraries/amgov/133183/english/P_You_Asked_How_Are_Museums_Supported_Financially.pdf).



---

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

/s/

---

Jahana Hayes  
Member of Congress

/s/

---

Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

/s/

---

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

/s/

---

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

/s/

---

Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress

/s/

---

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



---

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

/s/

---

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

/s/

---

Stephen Lynch  
Member of Congress



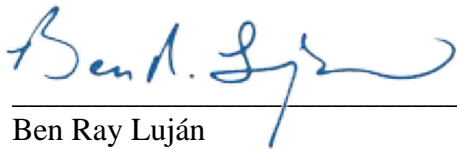
---

Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress

/s/

---

Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



---

Ben Ray Luján  
Member of Congress

/s/

---

Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

/s/

---

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress