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**THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

**COMMITTEE REPORT AND BRIEFING PAPER OF THE GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND HUMAN SERVICES DIVISIONS**

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**COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Hon. Paul Vallone, Chair

**COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL AFFAIRS, LIBRARIES,**

**& INTERNATIONAL INTERGROUP RELATIONS**

Hon. Jimmy Van Bramer, Chair

**September 24, 2020**

# Oversight: NYC’s Tourism Industry and the COVID-19 Crisis

**PROPOSED INT. NO. 1773-A:** By Council Member Vallone

**TITLE:** A Local Law to amend the New York city

charter, in relation to the creation of an office of

tourism recovery

**CHARTER:** Adds a new section 20-J

**INT. NO. 2034:** By Council Members Cumbo, Van Bramer, Kallos,

Vallone, Chin and Richards

**TITLE:** A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the

city of New York, in relation to the creation of a mobile application to coordinate the use of open space for art and cultural programming

**ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**: Adds a new section 23-305

**INT. NO. 2068:**   By Council Members Van Bramer, Cumbo,

Reynoso, Kallos, Rose, Menchaca, Powers, Lancman, Cabrera, Vallone, Holden, Salamanca, Gjonaj and Chin

**TITLE:**  A Local Law in relation to temporary outdoor space

for art and cultural institutions affected by

COVID-19

**ADMINISTRATIVE CODE**: None

**RES. NO. 1422:** By Council Members Van Bramer and Kallos

**TITLE:** Resolution calling upon Congress to pass, and the President to sign, the Save Our Stages (SOS) Bill (S.4258/H.R.7806) to establish a grant program for small live venue operators and talent representatives to address the economics effects of COVID-19

1. **INTRODUCTION**

On September 24, 2020, the Committee on Economic Development, chaired by Council Member Paul Vallone, jointly with the Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries, & International Intergroup Relations, chaired by Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, will hold an oversight hearing entitled *NYC’s Tourism Industry and the COVID-19 Crisis.* The Committees will also hear the following bills and resolutions: Proposed Int. No. 1773-A, a local law to amend the New York city charter, in relation to the creation of an office of tourism recovery; Int. No. 2034, a local law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the creation of a mobile application to coordinate the use of open space for art and cultural programming; Int. No. 2068, a local law in relation to temporary outdoor space for art and cultural institutions affected by COVID-19; and Res. No. 1422, a resolution calling upon Congress to pass, and the President to sign, the Save Our Stages (SOS) Bill (S.4258/H.R.7806) to establish a grant program for small live venue operators and talent representatives to address the economics effects of COVID-19. Those invited to testify include representatives of NYC & Company (“NYC & Co.”), the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs (“DCLA”) and interested members of the public.

1. **BACKGROUND**

**New York City’s Tourism Sector**

Tourism is a major driver of economic activity in New York City, and until 2020, the industry had seen ten consecutive years of record growth. In 2019, the City welcomed a record 66.6 million tourists, and the tourism industry supported over 403,000 jobs across the five boroughs (with an average annual wage of almost $74,000), generated over $71 billion in economic activity and almost $7 billion in state and local tax revenue, over two-thirds of which went to the City.[[1]](#footnote-1) As of early March, tourist visitation to New York City was expected to increase by two percent, to approximately 68 million visitors, in 2020.[[2]](#footnote-2) Hotels, restaurants, retail, cultural institutions, sports, recreation and nightlife all generate billions in economic impact for the City, and make it the vibrant, world-class destination it is.[[3]](#footnote-3)

Prior to the pandemic, the cultural sector in NYC was one of the largest industries in NYC,[[4]](#footnote-4) employing nearly 400,000 workers, paying them $31 billion in wages and generating $110 billion in economic activity.[[5]](#footnote-5) Last year, the theater industry in NYC alone grossed $1.8 billion and drew 14.8 million patrons,[[6]](#footnote-6) while the dance sector contributed over $300 million to the City's economy.[[7]](#footnote-7) In New York State, the cultural sector contributes more than $120 billion to the economy annually.[[8]](#footnote-8)

**The COVID-19 Crisis**

The rapid transmission of COVID-19, first identified in late 2019, led the World Health Organization to declare a pandemic on March 11, 2020.[[9]](#footnote-9) As of September 16, 2020, there have been 6,610,352 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 196,349 COVID-19-related deaths in the United States.[[10]](#footnote-10) By March 22, 2020, New York City was designated the epicenter of the pandemic, with approximately five percent of confirmed COVID-19 cases worldwide.[[11]](#footnote-11) As of September 16, 2020, New York State confirmed 446,366 positive COVID-19 cases, and 25,410 related deaths.[[12]](#footnote-12) Of those, New York City had reported 234,225 positive COVID-19 cases, and 19,134 confirmed deaths.[[13]](#footnote-13)

On March 7, 2020, Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order declaring a disaster emergency for the State of New York.[[14]](#footnote-14) This declaration was followed by a series of Executive Orders,[[15]](#footnote-15) referred to collectively as “New York On PAUSE,” which “closed or otherwise restricted public or private businesses or places of public accommodation” in order to slow the spread of COVID-19 throughout the state.[[16]](#footnote-16) Meanwhile, Mayor de Blasio issued a number of Executive Orders suspending, postponing and modifying City government operations to promote social distancing in the City.[[17]](#footnote-17) Among other things, these State and local orders closed schools and businesses, and required government agencies to drastically reduce the number of staff working in offices.

**COVID-19's Economic Impact on Tourism**

The PAUSE orders brought New York’s economy to a sudden standstill and halted nearly all tourist travel. With indoor dining, entertainment venues and tourist attractions closed or operating at limited capacity, large gatherings like parades and festivals banned, and the virus ravaging other parts of the country and threatening to come back as a second wave to New York, tourists were dissuaded to visit – and the tourism industry was thrown into a severe crisis. By the week ending March 28, hotel occupancy in the City fell to 15.2 percent, down 81.8 percent from the same time in 2019.[[18]](#footnote-18) As of the week ending September 5, hotel occupancy rates had rebounded slightly – to 38.2 percent – but are still well below 2019 levels.[[19]](#footnote-19) During this time of low occupancy rates, some hotels, notably several on the Upper West Side, secured a small revenue stream by agreeing to serve as temporary shelters for people experiencing homelessness, to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 in dorm-style shelters.[[20]](#footnote-20)

The economic impact of this mandatory shutdown has been unlike any in recent history,2[[21]](#footnote-21) and data suggests the pandemic has not hit all industries equally (see Figure 1).

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With many NYC-based jobs heavily concentrated in restaurants, arts and entertainment, and other industries that had to shut down and cease operations completely,[[22]](#footnote-22) the tourism sector has experienced the most severe layoffs in the local economy; having shed over 30,000 jobs by the end of May.[[23]](#footnote-23) As of July, there were over 200,000 jobs lost across the restaurant, retail, arts and entertainment, and travel accommodation industries.[[24]](#footnote-24) Data reveals the disproportionate impact COVID-19 has had on the cultural sector.[[25]](#footnote-25) The performing arts industry in particular shed 70 percent of its jobs due to closures, and a survey by the National Independent Venue Association found that 90 percent of independent venues would be forced to close forever if they do not receive government aid.[[26]](#footnote-26) While the State lifted restrictions on some art and cultural organizations, allowing them to re-open on August 24,[[27]](#footnote-27) the museum sector alone lost almost 34 percent of its jobs due to closures, while small museums face continued existential challenges to stay afloat while abiding by current limited capacity and social distancing guidelines.[[28]](#footnote-28) The industry was the second hardest hit by job loss due to COVID-19 overall, losing 67,200 jobs in April alone.[[29]](#footnote-29)

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NYC & Co., the City’s official marketing agency, was hit as well, furloughing half its staff in April, losing $12 million in private revenue streams in FY21, and taking a five percent cut to its City contract (a contract that makes up 50 percent of its budget).[[30]](#footnote-30) On July 27, it reported that it was forced to lay off 59 of the 77 furloughed staff and is continuing salary reductions for all staff.[[31]](#footnote-31)

1. **NEW YORK CITY’S TOURISM INDUSTRY RESPONSE**

During the height of the pandemic, NYC & Co. worked closely with agencies to support the City’s relief efforts. It worked with the New York City Office of Emergency Management and the Greater New York Hospital Association to facilitate the use of hotels as temporary accommodations for healthcare workers and others in need of socially distanced accommodations during the crisis.[[32]](#footnote-32) NYC & Co. also reported it was working closely with City Hall to support broad food delivery needs for New Yorkers during the crisis.[[33]](#footnote-33) The New York City Economic Development Corporation (“NYCEDC”), whose economic development investments indirectly support tourism by creating the physical and economic infrastructure that entices tourists to visit, also played a major role in the City’s relief efforts during the peak of the crisis. NYCEDC’s work focused on four key areas: manufacturing and sourcing medical supplies, ensuring the City had adequate emergency space, ensuring food supply chains remained intact, and supporting small businesses through City grant and loan programs.[[34]](#footnote-34)

In addition to the initial emergency response, NYC & Co. worked to help restaurants and other businesses adjust to the sudden shift to a socially distanced and virtual world. In late March, it launched “Dine in NYC,” a digital resource that listed and highlighted restaurants offering take-out and/or delivery services during the lockdown.[[35]](#footnote-35) It also launched, in partnership with DCLA and the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment, Virtual NYC: a website that collects and highlights all the creative virtual offerings of the City’s cultural scene.[[36]](#footnote-36) In April, it launched Shop in NYC, a similar digital resource to promote local retailers and encourage online purchases and gift card sales.[[37]](#footnote-37) It also compiled information from its member organizations who offer virtual site visits to assist event professionals in their planning for future meetings and conventions.[[38]](#footnote-38)

In May, as the City emerged from the worst of the crisis, slowly eased its lockdown and began to look ahead, NYC & Co. and tourism industry leaders formed the Coalition for NYC Hospitality & Tourism Recovery (“the Coalition”) to help chart a recovery plan for the tourism industry.[[39]](#footnote-39) The Coalition was formed to support city and state recovery planning, including Mayor Bill de Blasio’s Arts, Culture, and Tourism Advisory Council, the New York Forward Re-Opening Advisory Board, and the New York State Division of Tourism, and said it would focus on messaging, marketing and promotions with the goal of restoring the City’s brand and appeal to tourists.[[40]](#footnote-40) The Coalition’s leaders include Chairman Charles Flateman, Chairman of the NYC & Co. board and Executive Vice President of the Shubert Organization; Ellen Futter, President of the Museum of Natural History; Thelma Golden, Director and Chief Curator of the Studio Museum in Harlem; Lin-Manuel Miranda, composer, lyricist, and actor; Danny Meyer, CEO of the Union Square Hospitality Group; and Peter Ward, President of the New York Hotel & Motel Trades Council, AFL-CIO.[[41]](#footnote-41) By July, there were over 700 members of the Coalition, businesses from across the travel, tourism, meetings and events sectors.[[42]](#footnote-42)

In early July, the Coalition released its roadmap to tourism recovery: *All in NYC: The Roadmap for Tourism’s Reimagining and Recovery* (“All in NYC”).[[43]](#footnote-43) All in NYC has six goals:

* 1. “Show New Yorkers, and those in the greater metropolitan region, the way forward to safely reconnect with the city they love through neighborhood explorations and staycations;
  2. Remind the world that New York City is not only the greatest city in the world but also a safe place to visit from a public health perspective;
  3. Get visitors excited to travel to New York City again;
  4. Restore confidence among meeting and event organizers to choose NYC so a foundation of business is secured for the future;
  5. Reinforce NYC as one of the world’s most diverse, inclusive and welcoming cities;
  6. Help put NYC’s more than 403,000 tourism and hospitality employees back to work.”

The plan was designed to unfold in three stages: RISE (late spring, focus on education to rebuild consumer confidence and implementing virtual programming), RENEW (summer, inspire New Yorkers and regional tourists to connect safely with the city, launch revitalization campaign), and RECOVER (late summer – fall, launch vibrancy campaigns as more sectors reopen and visitors can confidently enjoy the City again).[[44]](#footnote-44)

NYC & Co. and Coalition members began leading an All in NYC “blitz” period during the weeks of September 14 and 21.[[45]](#footnote-45) Partners are sharing All in NYC social media content, releasing a ”*Love Letter to NYC,”* doing media interviews and more.[[46]](#footnote-46) As part of this blitz period, NYC & Co. launched the NYC: Neighborhood Getaways program on September 15, an initiative that promotes neighborhood exploration around the City and includes offers from various industries as they reopen, including attractions, museums and cultural institutions, outdoor dining, hotels, and retail.[[47]](#footnote-47) NYC & Co. is also re-purposing its digital tourist guides into ”Staycation Guides” for each borough that highlight local attractions for New Yorkers to explore.[[48]](#footnote-48) To assist restaurants who want to offer outdoor dining and face hurdles in complying with City guidelines, NYC & Co. is promoting NYCxDESIGN Design Corps, a free resource that pairs restaurants with designers and architects to provide pro-bono design consultations in order to maximize outdoor restaurant space and comply with the relevant guidelines.[[49]](#footnote-49)

As the All in NYC campaign moves into October, the Coalition plans to continue doing press and social media amplification of all the tourism offerings happening in the City.[[50]](#footnote-50) NYCEDC will also launch a business-focused advertising campaign.[[51]](#footnote-51)

1. **ARTS & CULTURE SECTOR RESPONSE**

On March 10, 2020 as the city was grappling with its response to the growing COVID crisis, the CIG,[[52]](#footnote-52) then led by Acting Chair Taryn Sacramone, began daily calls to share information on visitor safety, signage, and securing hand sanitizer.[[53]](#footnote-53) On Thursday, March 12, 2020, the restrictions placed on large gatherings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic[[54]](#footnote-54) prompted Broadway to close all 31 of its current shows and many of NYC’s cultural institutions—including the Metropolitan Museum of Art (”The Met”), the Museum of Modern Art (”MoMA”), the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Guggenheim, the Metropolitan Opera, Carnegie Hall and the NY Philharmonic—to abruptly shut their doors and postpone all programming.[[55]](#footnote-55) By the end of the second week of the shutdown, most cultural institutions in NYC were closed and the daily calls were opened to leaders of cultural organizations of all sizes and all disciplines, from all five boroughs.[[56]](#footnote-56) Today, while some organizations have begun to re-open, this “Culture@3” call continues to happen at 3:00 p.m. daily, and there are now more than 700 cultural leaders on the call list, with an average of 100-150 participants joining the call each day.[[57]](#footnote-57) During early calls, DCLA's Acting Commissioner, Kathi Hughes, joined calls to share updates on rapidly changing guidelines and gather questions for the agency on topics ranging from feeding animals at the city‘s living museums during a shutdown to whether security personnel were allowed into offices.[[58]](#footnote-58) DCLA continues to join calls frequently, and since starting his position in May, DCLA Commissioner Casals has joined the call to answer questions and provide updates multiple times.[[59]](#footnote-59) Government representatives from the Council, including Speaker Johnson, and other offices also began joining the calls to share updates and answer questions.[[60]](#footnote-60)

Participants on the Culture@3 call also track and provide regular updates on various issues areas, including those related to: (1) city & state advocacy; (2) federal advocacy; (3) communications and messaging; (4) data collection; (5) human resources and employment; (6) corporate and foundation support; (7) insurance; (8) online programming; (9) diversity; and (10) re-opening plans; with much of the research and work in these areas being done by designated Working Groups.[[61]](#footnote-61) As early as March and into April, as institutions faced questions about how to sustain business when their doors were closed and faced layoffs,[[62]](#footnote-62) the Culture@3 call participants began tracking and sharing resources about federal funding and grant opportunities for organizations daily, including updates around the federal Paycheck Protection Program[[63]](#footnote-63) and the COVID-19 Impact Fund,[[64]](#footnote-64) explaining guidelines and sharing advice on securing loans. The Culture@3 advocacy efforts, led by Lucy Sexton from New Yorkers for Culture and Arts,[[65]](#footnote-65) also began facilitating coordinated messaging and advocacy campaigns for the wider cultural community.[[66]](#footnote-66) As many cultural institutions and organizations began pivoting programming from on-site to virtual formats during this time,[[67]](#footnote-67) Culture@3’s Online Programming Working Group advised the community on online platform options, while the Culture@3 Human Resources Working Group provided presentations on unemployment insurance and benefits options for organizations and their furloughed cultural workers.[[68]](#footnote-68)

In April and May, Culture@3 call participants supported the City’s efforts to respond to the pandemic by collecting information on space and parking lots at cultural institutions, available for both medical and emergency services and food programs, as well as by providing ponchos and other requested protective gear.[[69]](#footnote-69) Culture@3‘s Reopening Working Group, led by Sade Lythcott of the National Black Theatre,[[70]](#footnote-70) began convening to discuss eventual re-opening strategies and coordinate advocacy efforts for a “cultural carve-out,” which would allow cultural organizations to move to reopen based on the type of activity or service they are offering, rather than the type of institution.[[71]](#footnote-71) Culture@3’s Data Collection Working Group also began meeting and collecting comprehensive data from various institutions, related to the estimated losses due to COVID-19 closures, issuing a report to illustrate the impact various organizations have on their immediate communities.[[72]](#footnote-72) Meanwhile, Culture@3’s Human Resources Working Group provided comprehensive materials on mental health resources for the community, including free NYC programs.

In May and June, DCLA also continued to support Culture@3 call participants’ efforts, as the various working groups continued to provide regular updates and advocacy, especially around safety, reopening plans and funding.[[73]](#footnote-73) During this time, and in response to larger cultural conversations around systemic racism[[74]](#footnote-74) and the future of the sector,[[75]](#footnote-75) the Culture@3 Anti-Racism Working Group launched to share resources and discuss how to advance racial equity in the sector. Organizations advised each other on associated activities, including the #ArtsGoBlack initiative, by call participant Melody Capote of The Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute,[[76]](#footnote-76) and the #OpenYourLobby initiative by various theaters to shelter protesters.[[77]](#footnote-77) In June and July, Culture@3 call participants also started a NYC-based #PasstheMic campaign,[[78]](#footnote-78) where cultural organizations with large social media followings offered their platforms to smaller organizations led by Black, indigenous and people of color (”BIPOC”) cultural leaders.[[79]](#footnote-79) Also in July, Culture@3 launched a #CultureCounts campaign to engage with the community and increase participation in the 2020 Census efforts,[[80]](#footnote-80) particularly in undercounted communities, including the creation of social media graphics, live call outs in virtual events, a live Census event at LaGuardia Performing Arts Center and dedicated emails from many cultural groups to their communities.[[81]](#footnote-81) Conversations on the Culture@3 call also led to the launch of a “Summer in the City” project,[[82]](#footnote-82) which provided over 17,000 of free, online, live instruction in a range of cultural disciplines to children and young adults throughout summer 2020.[[83]](#footnote-83) In August and September, Culture@3 call participants continued to meet daily, as well as host ongoing advocacy campaigns; discussions; share information on practices and experiences, especially as organizations begin to reopen; support Census outreach; and host speakers on relevant topics, ranging from NYC & Co.‘s efforts to online and other cultural programs for those with disability and rent relief.[[84]](#footnote-84) Culture@3 call participants also recently began creating toolkits for organizations to use in their own advocacy efforts.[[85]](#footnote-85) As of late August, DCLA has also provided links to the federal, state, city and union requirements, and guidelines that direct to pages which provide links to the respective hotlines and contact information,[[86]](#footnote-86) in addition to providing a collection of guides and other resources for organizations planning their reopening strategy. On September 14, 2020, the City also announced a program to provide free and discounted museum and zoo entry to students, prior to the start of school, as institutions continue to reopen.[[87]](#footnote-87)

1. **LOOKING AHEAD**

Since the peak of the pandemic in the City, the lockdown has gradually eased, and the fixtures of the City’s public life – restaurants, cultural attractions, retail stores, gyms and more – have begun to reopen with safety measures in place and capacity restrictions. For example, beginning on June 22, as part of “Phase 2” of the reopening, restaurants were allowed to offer dining outdoors,[[88]](#footnote-88) and on September 30, they will be allowed to open for indoor dining at 25 percent capacity.[[89]](#footnote-89) Museums were allowed to begin reopening at limited capacity on August 24.[[90]](#footnote-90)

Tourists are starting to trickle back, but the industry still has a long road to recovery ahead. During a recent virtual policy forum hosted by the Center for an Urban Future, industry stakeholders relayed that the City was behind other cities in its efforts to jumpstart its tourism industry, in part due to the severity of the COVID-19 outbreak here, but also in part due to the slowness of City and State government leaders to respond.[[91]](#footnote-91) They noted the lack of adequate support for small businesses from government at all levels, particularly at the federal and state level.[[92]](#footnote-92) One example of an initiative that stakeholders would like to see in New York is a “New York for New Yorkers” marketing campaign, led and funded by the State, that would encourage mutual visiting among different regions of New York State.[[93]](#footnote-93) This campaign would be modeled after a similar initiative coordinated by the California State government, the “Calling all Californians” campaign, in which several Californian cities and regions banded together to support local businesses and destinations around the State.[[94]](#footnote-94)

Further policy suggestions included: (1) greatly expanding efforts to turn out New Yorkers to become tourists in their own City; (2) creating discount and incentive programs to spur local tourism (for example, the UK government sponsored a program that gave eat-in diners at London restaurants a 50 percent discount of up to 10 pounds for three days per week in August);[[95]](#footnote-95) (3) reactivating Midtown and other destination commercial districts through cultural programming, sponsored activities, and socially distanced events, similar to what Montreal has done in its central core;[[96]](#footnote-96) (4) increasing baseline funding to NYC & Co.; and (5) enlisting creatives to promote the City.[[97]](#footnote-97)

This hearing will provide an opportunity to hear from tourism industry stakeholders from the public, nonprofit and private sectors—including those within the cultural sector—on what they have been doing to revive the City’s tourism industry and how they envision a path to recovery.

1. **LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS**

**Proposed Int. No. 1773-A, A Local Law to amend the New York city charter, in relation to an office of tourism recovery**

This bill would create a temporary office of tourism recovery within the office of the mayor for a period of five years. This office would be responsible for: (1) coordinating with city agencies to facilitate the recovery of the City’s tourism industry; (2) liaising between the public and the administration on issues relating to the tourism industry; (3) disseminating information on behalf of the City to local businesses and attractions relating to the City’s tourism recovery efforts; (4) responding on behalf of the City to concerns from tourists or potential tourists on the safety measures in place at various city attractions; and (5) working with city agencies to communicate tourism recovery efforts to other agencies and the general public. The office would be required to submit quarterly reports on tourism recovery efforts to the mayor and speaker.

This bill would take effect 120 days after enactment and sunset five years after its effective date.

**Int. No. 2034, A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the creation of a mobile application to coordinate the use of open space for art and cultural programming**

This bill would require the Department of Information, Technology and Telecommunications, in consultation with DCLA, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and other relevant agencies, to create a mobile application to provide information about and coordinate the use of open space for art and cultural programming, as well as providing information about low cost or free public programs in such locations.

This bill would take effect immediately after enactment.

**Int. No. 2068, A Local Law in relation to temporary outdoor space for art and cultural institutions affected by COVID-19**

This bill would require the City to create an “open culture program” that would allow cultural institutions affected by COVID-19 to use parks, pedestrian plazas, roadways or public parking areas, and other approved open space as temporary performance and rehearsal space. The Department of Transportation (“DOT”) would be required to create a self-certification process that cultural institutions would complete before offering any open space. While this process would not require agency approval, a self-certification could be suspended or terminated by the DOT for non-compliance with requirements of the program or for the protection of health or safety. The program would run until at least January 31, 2021, with the possibility of extension, but it would expire by March 31, 2021.

This bill would take effect immediately after enactment.

**Res. No. 1422, Resolution calling upon Congress to pass, and the President to sign, the Save Our Stages (SOS) Bill (S.4258/H.R.7806) to establish a grant program for small live venue operators and talent representatives to address the economics effects of COVID-19**

This resolution would support the Save Our Stages (SOS) Bill (S.4258/H.R.7806), a bi-partisan bill introduced by Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) on July 22, 2020 and Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT-At Large) that authorizes the United States Small Business Association to make initial grants up to $12 million dollars to eligible operators, promoters, producers or representatives with additional supplemental grants equal to 50 percent of the initial grant to be used for costs and expenses including payroll, rent, utilities and personal protective equipment incurred between March 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Proposed Int. No. 1773-A

By Council Member Vallone

A Local Law to amend the New York city charter, in relation to an office of tourism recovery

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter one of the New York city charter is amended by adding a new section 20-J to read as follows:

20-J. Office of Tourism Recovery a. Definitions. There shall be established in the executive office of the mayor an office of tourism recovery. The office shall be headed by a director, who shall be appointed by the mayor.

b. The office of tourism recovery shall have the power and duty to:

1. Coordinate with city agencies to facilitate the recovery of the city’s tourism industry;

2. Liaise between the public and the administration on issues relating to the tourism industry;

3. Disseminate information on behalf of the city to concerns from local businesses and attractions relating to the city’s tourism recovery efforts;

4. Respond on behalf of the city to concerns from tourists or potential tourists on the safety measures in place at various city attractions; and

5. Work with city agencies to communicate tourism recovery efforts to other agencies and the general public.

c. Beginning on April 1, 2021 and each quarter thereafter, the director of tourism recovery shall submit a report to the mayor and speaker of the council containing, at a minimum:

1. An estimate of the lost tourism revenue to the city during the preceding quarter;

2. An analysis of the recovery efforts taken by each city agency engaged in tourism

recovery;

3. Identification of appropriate areas of the city where tourism recovery efforts could be directed more effectively, and recommendations on how to do so; and

4. Any other recommendations in furtherance of tourism recovery.

d. This section expires five years after the effective date of the local law that added this section.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 120 days after it becomes law, except that the mayor's office or any agency designated by the mayor shall take such measures as are necessary for the implementation of this local law before such date. This local law is deemed repealed 5 years after it becomes law.

NAB/ARP

LS #10011

9/8/2020

Int. No. 2034

By Council Members Cumbo, Van Bramer, Kallos, Vallone, Chin and Richards

A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the creation of a mobile application to coordinate the use of open space for art and cultural programming

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 3 of title 23 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new section 23-305 to read as follows:

§ 23-305 Open space coordination platform. a. Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Art and cultural institution. The term “art and cultural institution” means any not-for-profit art or cultural group, organization, venue or institution within the city of New York.

Department. The term “department” means the department of information technology and telecommunications.

Mobile application. The term “mobile application” means a type of application software designed to run on a mobile device, such as a smartphone or tablet computer.

Open space. The term “open space” means any location that may be designated by the city for use by the public or an art and cultural institution, including, but not limited to, park space, pedestrian plazas, roadways or public parking lots.

b. No later than 180 days following the effective date of the local law that added this section, the department shall, in consultation with relevant agencies, including, but not limited to, the department of cultural affairs and the department of parks and recreation, create a mobile application that shall provide information about open space locations, facilitate the coordination of such open space, and provide information about low cost or free public programs offered by art and cultural institutions in such open space locations. Such mobile application shall, at a minimum, allow users to search for open space, by location, on a map.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately.

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Int. No. 2068

By Council Members Van Bramer, Cumbo, Reynoso, Kallos, Rose, Menchaca, Powers, Lancman, Cabrera, Vallone, Holden, Salamanca, Gjonaj and Chin

A Local Law in relation to temporary outdoor space for art and cultural institutions affected by COVID-19

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Temporary space for art and cultural institutions affected by COVID-19. a. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

Affected art and cultural institution. The term “affected art and cultural institution” means any not-for-profit art or cultural group, organization, venue or institution within the city of New York that was ordered to close due to the state disaster emergency declared by the governor of the state of New York in executive order number 202, dated March 7, 2020, as amended and extended.

COVID-19. The term “COVID-19” means the disease caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

Open space. The term “open space” means any location of roadway space, park space, or any other public outdoor location, including but not limited to a pedestrian plaza, roadway or public parking lot, that may be used by an affected art and cultural institution for temporary outdoor performance or rehearsal space and that has been approved for such use by the department of transportation or the department of parks and recreation.

Park space. The term “park space” means space located in a city park in accordance with guidelines established by the department of parks and recreation pursuant to this section.

Pedestrian plaza. The term “pedestrian plaza” has the same meaning as set forth in section 19-157 of the administrative code of the city of New York.

Roadway space. The term “roadway space” means space located in the roadway adjacent to the curb in accordance with guidelines established by the department of transportation pursuant to this section.

b. Open culture program. 1. The city shall establish a program pursuant to which affected art and cultural institutions may utilize open space as a temporary outdoor performance and rehearsal area.

2. Affected art and cultural institutions shall be permitted to utilize any open space as a temporary outdoor performance and rehearsal area after the completion of an online self-certification application, which shall be in a form and manner as determined by the department of transportation, in consultation with the department of parks and recreation.

3. There shall be no fee for participation in such program.

c. Compliance with other laws. Nothing in this local law shall relieve an affected art and cultural institution from their obligation to adhere to all emergency executive orders issued pursuant to section 24 or 29-a of the executive law, and to all local, state, and federal requirements relating to health and safety, except as modified by any such emergency executive order or this local law. Any affected art and cultural institution participating in the program established pursuant to subdivision b of this section shall adhere to all applicable guidance issued by the department of transportation, the department of parks and recreation, the department of cultural affairs, the department of health and mental hygiene, and the New York state department of health.

d. Validity of self-certification. A self-certification submitted pursuant to paragraph 2 of subdivision b of this section shall remain valid until terminated or suspended by the department of transportation. The department of transportation may terminate or suspend a self-certification for non-compliance with the requirements of the program established pursuant to subdivision b of this section or as necessary to protect health or safety.

e. Expiration. The program established pursuant to subdivision b of this section shall remain in effect until January 31, 2021 or until such later date as the department of transportation, in consultation with the department of parks and recreation, shall determine; provided however that such program shall not remain in effect after March 31, 2021. The department of transportation shall provide the speaker of the council notice five days prior to the termination of such program.

§ 2. This local law takes effect immediately.

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Res. No. 1422

Resolution calling upon Congress to pass, and the President to sign, the Save Our Stages (SOS) Bill (S.4258/H.R.7806) to establish a grant program for small live venue operators and talent representatives to address the economics effects of COVID-19.

Council Members Van Bramer and Kallos

Whereas, According to the National Independent Venue Association (NIVA), every year thousands of independent venues host millions of concert events that are attended by hundreds of millions of concertgoers; and

Whereas, These independent entertainment venues provide jobs in local communities for hundreds of thousands of artists, musicians, comedians, actors, venue operations and production staff, organizers, promoters, producers, managers, sound engineers, lighting professionals, stage personnel, box office personnel, talent agents and managers; and

Whereas, These independent entertainment venues generate millions in tax revenue while serving as economic multipliers for local economies in providing support to neighborhood businesses such as restaurants, hotels and retail establishments; and

Whereas, Live concert event venues were among the first to close in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and will likely be among the last to reopen, and these still shuttered venues have left employees without jobs having to rely on unemployment benefits that will eventually cease to exist and neighboring businesses without the benefit of revenues and economic support previously generated by the entertainment venue patrons; and

Whereas, Since March 16, 2020 all restaurants, bars and nightlife venues in New York City have been temporarily closed due to COVID-19, prompting layoffs to some 67,600 arts and entertainment sector employees; and

Whereas, The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) originally stipulated 75 percent of the funds be spent on payroll and only 25 percent be spent on expenses such as rent and utilities; and

Whereas, Because PPP was not designed to cover the steep, ongoing costs venues incur even in the absence of paying customers, the majority of venues have been unable to afford to resume business as usual; and

Whereas, Despite the PPP guidelines having been amended in the June 2020 PPE Flexibility Act, which now stipulates 60 percent of the loan be spent on payroll with 40 percent to be spent on rent and utilities, the exorbitant rent costs in New York city would quickly drain the percentage allowed by a PPP loan therefore providing little if any help to the small independent venues; and

Whereas, Evictions in New York City are still suspended, yet local venues are left to wonder how long they can depend upon the moratorium to prevent permanent closure of their independent performance spaces within the city; and

Whereas, according to a poll conducted by NIVA in June 2020, absent federal aid, 90 percent of America’s independent music venues expect to permanently shut their doors by the end of 2020; and

Whereas, The Save Our Stages (SOS) Bill (S.4258/H.R.7806) is a bi-partisan bill introduced by Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX) on July 22, 2020 and Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT-At Large) on July 27, 2020 authorizing the United States Small Business Association to make initial grants up to $12 million dollars to eligible operators, promoters, producers or representatives with additional supplemental grants equal to 50 percent of the initial grant to be used for costs and expenses including payroll, rent, utilities and personal protective equipment (PPE) incurred between March 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021;

Whereas, The possibility of permanent closure of these independent venues threatens the ability of the artistic community to hone their craft and catch the attention of industry professionals seeking to develop new talent, while also depriving local neighborhoods the opportunity to support and cultivate local artists and patrons who constitute the epicenter of the cultural and economic community in each neighborhood; now, therefore, be it,

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York call on Congress to pass, and the President to sign, the Save Our Stages (SOS) Bill (S.4258/H.R.7806) to establish a grant program for small live venue operators and talent representatives to address the economics effects of COVID-19.

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9/8/2020

CD

1. *See* NYC & Co. *All In NYC: The Roadmap for Tourism’s Reimagining and Recovery* (July 2020) at 6-9, *available at* <https://coalition.nycgo.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/NYCCompany_Roadmap_for_Tourism_Reimagining_and_Recovery.pdf>; *See also* Curtis Tate, *In Sign of COVID-19's Impact on New York Tourism, Hilton to Close Times Square Hotel*, USA Today (Sept. 4, 2020), *available at* <https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/2020/09/04/covid-19-and-new-york-tourism-hilton-times-square-hotel-closing-oct-1/5718021002/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *See* Johanna Jainchill, *Tourism forecast revised for U.S. and New York City,* Travel Weekly, Mar. 3, 2020, https://www.travelweekly.com/North-America-Travel/New-York-and-USA-revise-tourism-projections-coronavirus. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *See* All in NYC*, supra* note 1 at 6-9. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, *The Creative Economy: Art, Culture and Creativity in New York City* (Oct. 25, 2019), *available at* <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/reports/the-creative-economy/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer, *New York by the Numbers: Weekly Economic and Fiscal Outlook* (May 26, 2020), *available at* <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/new-york-by-the-numbers-weekly-economic-and-fiscal-outlook-no-2-may-26-2020/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *See* Michael Paulson, *Broadway’s Box Office Keeps Booming. Now Attendance is Surging, Too*. NY Times (May 29, 2019), *available at*<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/29/theater/broadway-box-office.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *See* Dance NYC & New York City Dance Makers and Organizations, *Letter to Mayor Bill de Blasio RE: Advisory Council on Arts, Culture, and Tourism,* DanceNYC (May 13, 2020), *available at* <https://www.dance.nyc/news/2020/05/Letter-to-Mayor-Bill-de-Blasio-Re-Advisory-Council-on-Arts-Culture-and-Tourism/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *See* National Assembly of Art Organizations, *Creative Economy State Profiles: New York* (n.d.), *available at* <https://nasaa-arts.org/nasaa_research/creative-economy-state-profiles/>; *see also* National Endowment for the Arts, *State-Level Estimates of the Arts’ Economic Value and Employment (2001-2017)* (Mar. 2020), *available at* <https://www.arts.gov/artistic-fields/research-analysis/arts-data-profiles/arts-data-profile-25>. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. *See* World Health Organization, *WHO Director-General's Opening Remarks at the Media Briefing on COVID-19* (2020) *available at* <https://www.who.int/dg/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19---11-march-2020> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. *See* Johns Hopkins University, *COVID-19 Map*, <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html> (last visited September 16, 2020). [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. *See* Jesse McKinley, *New York City Region Is Now an Epicenter of the Coronavirus Pandemic*, N.Y. Times (Mar. 22, 2020) *available at* <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/22/nyregion/Coronavirus-new-York-epicenter.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. *See* New York State Department of Health, COVID-19 Tracker, <https://covid19tracker.health.ny.gov/views/NYS-COVID19-Tracker/NYSDOHCOVID-19Tracker-Map?%3Aembed=yes&%3Atoolbar=no&%3Atabs=n> (last visited September 16, 2020). [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. In addition to confirmed deaths, the City tracks “probable” COVID-19 deaths. As of September 16, 2020, there were 4,628 probable COVID-19 deaths reported. *See* NYC DOHMH, COVID-19: Data, <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/covid/covid-19-data.page> (last visited September 16, 2020). [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. *See* N.Y. Gov. Exec. Order No. 202. [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. *See* N.Y. Gov. Exec. Order No. 202.3, 202.4, 202.5, 202.6, 202.7, 202.8, 202.10, 202.11, 202.13, 202.14, 202.28, and 202.31. [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. *See* N.Y. Gov Exec. Order No. 202.31. [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. *See, e.g.*,N.Y.C Mayor Exec. Order No. 99 and 100. [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. *See,* Fred Dixon, NYC & Co. “Coronavirus Update,” Apr. 1, 2020 (email on file with committee staff). [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. *See* Fred Dixon, NYC & Co. “Coronavirus Update,” Sep. 10, 2020 (email on file with committee staff); *see also* American Hotel and Lodging Association, *State of the Hotel Industry Analysis: COVID-19 Six Months Later,* at 1, 8(Aug. 31, 2020), *available at* <https://www.ahla.com/sites/default/files/State%20of%20the%20Industry.pdf> (explaining that in 2019, the occupancy rate in New York City was 93 percent). [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. *See* Alissa Walker, *Hotels Are Still NYC’s Best Chance to Stop a Looming Homelessness Catastrophe*, Curbed (Aug 21, 2020) *available at* https://www.curbed.com/2020/8/21/21373861/homeless-hotels-nyc-coronavirus-upper-west-side [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. *See* Abigail Savitch-Lew, Eli Dvorkin, and Laird Gallagher, *Art in the Time of Coronavirus: NYC’s Small Arts Organizations Fighting for Survival,* Center for an Urban Future (April 2020), *available at* <https://nycfuture.org/research/art-in-the-time-of-coronavirus>. [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. Just this month, Hilton announced that effective October 1, it would be closing its 478-room hotel in Times Square, eliminating 200 jobs. *See* Curtis Tate, *In Sign of COVID-19's impact on New York Tourism, Hilton to Close Times Square Gotel,* USA Today (Sep. 4, 2020), *available at* <https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/2020/09/04/covid-19-and-new-york-tourism-hilton-times-square-hotel-closing-oct-1/5718021002/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. *See* All in NYC, *supra* note 1 at 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. *See* Afia Earna, *How New York City Might Begin to Revive Its Decimated Tourism Industry*, Gotham Gazette (Sep. 13, 2020), *available at* <https://www.gothamgazette.com/city/9742-how-to-revive-new-york-city-tourism?mc_cid=b644d5807f&mc_eid=46585a506c>. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. *See* Niv Elis, *Arts,* *Struggling to Survive, Face a Longer Road to Recovery*, The Hill (Apr. 11, 2020), *available at* <https://thehill.com/homesnews/coronavirus-report/492301-arts-struggling-to-survive-pandemic-face-a-longer-road-to-recovery>; *see also* David Kaufman, *An Architect in City Hall Plots NYC’s Cultural Recovery,* Architectural Digest (Jul. 30, 2020), *available at* <https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/gonzalo-casals-nyc-cultural-commissioner>. [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. *See* Afia Earna, *How New York City Might Begin to Revive Its Decimated Tourism Industry*, Gotham Gazette (Sep. 13, 2020), *available at* <https://www.gothamgazette.com/city/9742-how-to-revive-new-york-city-tourism?mc_cid=b644d5807f&mc_eid=46585a506c>. [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-27)
28. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-28)
29. *See* NYC Comptroller Scott M. Stringer, *New York by the Numbers: Weekly Economic and Fiscal Outlook* (May 26, 2020), *available at* <https://comptroller.nyc.gov/newsroom/new-york-by-the-numbers-weekly-economic-and-fiscal-outlook-no-2-may-26-2020/> (explaining that “private employers in New York City shed 823,500 jobs in April – one in every five private sector jobs; dine-in restaurants were the hardest hit, dropping by 119,000 jobs – an 85% decline in a single month; and the arts, entertainment and recreation sector saw the largest decline after restaurants, losing 67,200 jobs, or 78%”). [↑](#footnote-ref-29)
30. *See* Email to N.Y. City Council Member Paul Vallone from NYC & Co., Jul. 27, 2020 (on file with committee staff). [↑](#footnote-ref-30)
31. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-31)
32. *See* Fred Dixon, NYC & Co. “Coronavirus Update,” Mar. 23, 2020 (email on file with committee staff). [↑](#footnote-ref-32)
33. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-33)
34. *See* N.Y. City Council Committee on Economic Development, Committee Report, “Oversight: NYCEDC’s Relief Efforts During the COVID-19 Crisis,” (Jun. 24, 2020) *available at* <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8631938&GUID=9A658D18-C837-48EC-A299-9D4AC1159BAD> [↑](#footnote-ref-34)
35. *See* Fred Dixon, NYC & Co. “Coronavirus Update,” Mar. 23, 2020 (email on file with committee staff). [↑](#footnote-ref-35)
36. *See* NYC & Co. *NYC Offers a Virtual Taste of its Cultural Experiences in Response to Temporary Closures,* (Mar 30, 2020) *available at* <https://business.nycgo.com/press-and-media/press-releases/articles/post/nyc-company-launches-virtual-nyc-encouraging-digital-exploration-of-new-york-city/> [↑](#footnote-ref-36)
37. *See* NYC & Co., *New York City’s Destination Marketing Organization Launches New Shop in NYC Initiative* (Apr 21, 2020) *available at* https://business.nycgo.com/press-and-media/press-releases/articles/post/nyc-company-highlights-ways-to-support-new-york-city-retailers-during-crisis/?cid=NYCEM\_MEM\_Coronavirus21\_20200421 [↑](#footnote-ref-37)
38. *See* Fred Dixon, NYC & Co. “Coronavirus Update,” Apr. 21, 2020 (email on file with committee staff). [↑](#footnote-ref-38)
39. *See,* Fred Dixon, NYC & Co. “Coronavirus Update,” May 13, 2020 (email on file with committee staff). [↑](#footnote-ref-39)
40. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-40)
41. *See* All in NYC, *supra* note 1. [↑](#footnote-ref-41)
42. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-42)
43. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-43)
44. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
45. *See* NYC & Co., *Webinar: All in NYC* (Sep. 10, 2020). [↑](#footnote-ref-45)
46. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-46)
47. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-47)
48. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
49. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
50. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-50)
51. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-51)
52. The Cultural Institutions Group (CIG) is a group of 34 institutions throughout the five boroughs that including The Met, MoMA, the Botanic Gardens and the Zoos, that receive 75% of DCLA’s annual operating budget. *See* NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Cultural Institutions Group (CIG) (n.d.), *available at* <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dcla/cultural-funding/city-owned-institutions.page>. [↑](#footnote-ref-52)
53. Peter Marks and Geoff Edgers, *New York is one of the world’s great cities for the arts — but the damage from the pandemic is proving to be catastrophic,* The Washington Post, (Mar. 31, 2020), *available at* [https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/theater\_dance/new-york-is-one-of-the-worlds-great-cities-for-the-arts-but-the-damage-from-the-pandemic-is-proving-to-be-catastrophic/2020/03/31/b0f300f4-71e5-11ea-85cb-8670579b863d\_story.html;](https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/theater_dance/new-york-is-one-of-the-worlds-great-cities-for-the-arts-but-the-damage-from-the-pandemic-is-proving-to-be-catastrophic/2020/03/31/b0f300f4-71e5-11ea-85cb-8670579b863d_story.html;R) *see also* Robin Pogrebin and Michawel Paulson, *The Daily Call that 200 Arts Groups Hope Will Help Them Survive* N.Y. Times, (May 12, 2020), *available at* <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/12/arts/coronavirus-new-york-culture.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-53)
54. *See* Jesse McKinley and Michael Gold, *Ban on Large Gatherings in N.Y. as Coronavirus Cases Rise Sharply,* N.Y. Times, (Mar. 12, 2020), *available at* <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/12/nyregion/coronavirus-nyc-event-ban.html>; *See* Executive Order 202.31 (May 14, 2020), *available at* <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20231-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency> (describing previous orders); Michael Paulson, *Broadway, Symbol of New York Resilience, Shuts Down Amid Virus Threat,* N.Y. Times, (Mar. 12, 2020), *available at* <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/12/theater/coronavirus-broadway-shutdown.html>, [↑](#footnote-ref-54)
55. Robin Pogrebin and Michael Cooper, *New York’s Major Cultural Institutions Close in Response to Coronavirus,* N.Y. Times, (Mar. 12, 2020), *available at* <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/12/arts/design/met-museum-opera-carnegie-hall-close-coronavirus.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-55)
56. *See* Peter Marks and Geoff Edgers, *New York is one of the world’s great cities for the arts — but the damage from the pandemic is proving to be catastrophic,* The Washington Post(Mar. 31, 2020), *available at* <https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/theater_dance/new-york-is-one-of-the-worlds-great-cities-for-the-arts-but-the-damage-from-the-pandemic-is-proving-to-be-catastrophic/2020/03/31/b0f300f4-71e5-11ea-85cb-8670579b863d_story.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-56)
57. Information shared during the daily “Culture @3” call, hosted by the CIG; *see also* Peter Marks and Geoff Edgers, *New York is one of the world’s great cities for the arts — but the damage from the pandemic is proving to be catastrophic* The Washington Post(Mar. 31, 2020), *available at* <https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/theater_dance/new-york-is-one-of-the-worlds-great-cities-for-the-arts-but-the-damage-from-the-pandemic-is-proving-to-be-catastrophic/2020/03/31/b0f300f4-71e5-11ea-85cb-8670579b863d_story.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-57)
58. Information shared during the daily “Culture @3” call, hosted by the CIG. [↑](#footnote-ref-58)
59. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-59)
60. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-60)
61. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-61)
62. *See, e.g.,* Andrea K. Scott, *New York’s Art World Faces Coronavirus Shutdown*, New Yorker (Mar. 26, 2020), *available at* <https://www.newyorker.com/culture/culture-desk/new-yorks-art-world-faces-the-coronavirus-shutdown>. [↑](#footnote-ref-62)
63. *See* U.S. Small Business Administration, *Paycheck Protection Program* (last visited Sep. 17, 2020), *available at* <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program>; *See, e.g.,* Valentina Di Liscia, Hakim Bishira and Hrag Vartanian, *Tens of Millions of Dollars in PP Loans Went to NYC Museums, Art Galleries, and Orgs* (Jul. 7, 2020), *available at* <https://hyperallergic.com/575406/nyc-art-museums-galleries-ppp-loans/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-63)
64. ### *See* The New York Community Trust, *NYC COVID-19 Response & Impact Fund* (last visited Sep. 15, 2020), *available at* <https://www.nycommunitytrust.org/covid19/> (“The fund was created to aid nonprofit service providers struggling with the initial health and economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic. It raised more than $110 million from more than 1,300 donors and gave financial assistance to 768 NYC-based organizations. It distributed more than $73 million in grants through The Trust and more than $37 million in no-interest loans through the Nonprofit Finance Fund”).

    [↑](#footnote-ref-64)
65. *See* New Yorkers for Culture & Arts, *NY4CA* (last visited Sep. 15, 2020), *available at* <https://www.ny4ca.org/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-65)
66. Information shared during the daily “Culture @3” call, hosted by the CIG [↑](#footnote-ref-66)
67. *See, e.g.,* Soraya Nadia McDonald, *New York’s arts scene remains shut down indefinitely—can it evolve and survive?* National Geographic (Jun. 15, 2020), *available at* <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/2020/06/new-york-arts-scene-shuts-down-indefinitely-can-evolve-survive/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-67)
68. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-68)
69. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-69)
70. *See* National Black Theatre, *National Black Theatre* (last visited Sep. 15, 2020), *available at* <https://www.nationalblacktheatre.org/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-70)
71. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-71)
72. *See* Cultural Institutions Group, *COVID-19 Impacts on NYC Cultural & Arts Organizations: Survey conducted April/May 2020 Culture@3PM* (May 2020); *See* Lucy Sexton, *Testimony* (Jun. 22, 2020), *available at* <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8637375&GUID=C35528D4-0B8D-4959-8080-43911474923B>; The Department of Cultural Affairs, *Testimony* (Jun. 22, 2020), *available at* <https://legistar.council.nyc.gov/View.ashx?M=F&ID=8637375&GUID=C35528D4-0B8D-4959-8080-43911474923B>. [↑](#footnote-ref-72)
73. Information shared during the daily “Culture @3” call, hosted by the CIG. [↑](#footnote-ref-73)
74. *See, e.g.*, Jamila Michener, *George Floyd’s Killing Was Just the Spark, Here‘s What Really Made the Protests Explode*, The Washington Post (Jun. 11, 2020), *available at* <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/06/11/george-floyds-killing-was-just-spark-heres-what-really-made-protests-explode/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-74)
75. *See, e.g.,* Xime Izquierdo Ugax, *US Museum Workers Band Together to Demand a More Inclusive, Fair Future* Remezcla (Aug. 14, 2020), *available at* <https://remezcla.com/features/culture/museum-groups-demanding-change-details/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-75)
76. See The Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute, *CCCADI* (last visited Sep. 17, 2020), *available at* <https://cccadi.org/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-76)
77. *See, e.g.*, BWW News Desk, *Open Your Lobby Initiative Shares Map of Theaters Open to Protesters Today*, Broadway World (Jun. 5, 2020), *available at* <https://www.broadwayworld.com/article/Open-Your-Lobby-Initiative-Shares-Maps-of-Theaters-Open-to-Protesters-Today-20200605>. [↑](#footnote-ref-77)
78. *See, e.g.,* Digital Culture staff, *From COVID-19 to Black Lives Matter: #PassTheMic campaign shifts focus,* DW, (Sep. 14, 2020), *available at* <https://www.dw.com/en/from-covid-19-to-black-lives-matter-passthemic-campaign-shifts-focus/a-53812429>; *see also* Huffington Post, *Dr. Fauci's #PassTheMic Campaign Will Take Over Julia Roberts' Social Media Accounts* Huffington Post (May 20, 2020), *available at* <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/1569799868682/dr-faucis-passthemic-campaign-will-take-over-julia-roberts-social-media-accounts>. [↑](#footnote-ref-78)
79. Information shared during the daily “Culture @3” call, hosted by the CIG. [↑](#footnote-ref-79)
80. *See, e.g.,* HERE Arts Center, *Culture Counts* (Sep. 1, 2020), *available at* <https://m.facebook.com/hereartscenter/posts/10157761797578668>; U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2020* (last visited Sep. 15, 2020), *available at* <https://www.2020census.gov/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-80)
81. Information shared during the daily “Culture @3” call, hosted by the CIG. [↑](#footnote-ref-81)
82. According to leaders of the daily call, discussions included “how culturals can best support/engage with children/young people who have been traumatized by events over the spring/summer - social workers and teaching workers joined the calls to advise on best practices/ways of thinking about engagement.” *See also* Summer in the City, *Paint, Dance, Act, Sing, Move!* (last visited Sep. 15, 2020), *available at* <https://www.summerinthecity.nyc/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-82)
83. Information shared during the daily “Culture @3” call, hosted by the CIG. [↑](#footnote-ref-83)
84. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-84)
85. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-85)
86. *See* NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, *COVID-19 Coronavirus Resources* (last visited Sep. 17, 2020), *available at* <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/dcla/resources/coronavirus-dcla.page>. [↑](#footnote-ref-86)
87. *See* City of New York, *Mayor de Blasio Announces Free and discounted museum and Zoo Tickets for Students before Start of School* (Sep. 14, 2020), *available at* <https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/651-20/mayor-de-blasio-free-discounted-museum-zoo-tickets-students-before-start-of>. [↑](#footnote-ref-87)
88. *See Reopen News: Restaurants, businesses gear up as Cuomo confirms NYC Phase 2 Monday,* Eyewitness News (Jun. 19, 2020), *available at* https://abc7ny.com/phase-2-nyc-cuomo-vs-de-blasio-new-york-city/6255587/ [↑](#footnote-ref-88)
89. # *See* [Jesse McKinley](https://www.nytimes.com/by/jesse-mckinley), [Sharon Otterman](https://www.nytimes.com/by/sharon-otterman) and [Joseph Goldstein](https://www.nytimes.com/by/joseph-goldstein)*, N.Y.C. to Allow Indoor Dining, in Milestone on*

    # *Recovery From Pandemic,* N.Y. Times (Sep. 11, 2020), *available at* <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/09/nyregion/indoor-dining-coronavirus.html>

    [↑](#footnote-ref-89)
90. *See Reopening plans, dates for NYC Museums, cultural institutions,* Eyewitness News (Sep. 6, 2020), *available at* <https://abc7ny.com/nyc-museums-the-met-metropolitan-museum-of-art-coronavirus/6372008/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-90)
91. *See* How New York City Might Begin to Revive Its Decimated Tourism Industry, *supra* note 17. [↑](#footnote-ref-91)
92. *See* Center for an Urban Future, *Forum: Laying the Groundwork for a Tourism Recovery in NYC* (Sep. 9, 2020), *available at* <https://app.livestorm.co/center-for-an-urban-future/laying-the-groundwork-for-a-tourism-recovery-in-nyc> [↑](#footnote-ref-92)
93. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-93)
94. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-94)
95. *See* BBC staff, *Coronavirus: Restaurants extend discount dining into September*, BBC (Aug. 27, 2020), *available at* <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-53923027>. [↑](#footnote-ref-95)
96. *See, e.g.,* T'Cha Dunlevy*, T'Cha Dunlevy: Bridging Quebec's cultural divides under COVID-19,* Montreal Gazette, (May 18, 2020), *available at* [https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/bridging-quebecs-cultural-divides-under-covid-19.](https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/bridging-quebecs-cultural-divides-under-covid-19) [↑](#footnote-ref-96)
97. *See id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-97)