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OC ARTS COMMUNITY SUFFERS \$16 MILLION BLOW FROM COVID-19

Creative Sector Represents 90,000 Jobs in Orange County

IRVINE, CALIFORNIA — Orange County’s vibrant arts community has suffered a \$16 million financial blow to date as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new survey released by Arts Orange County.

Arts Orange County (ArtsOC), the county’s officially-designated local arts agency, warns that the economic toll from job losses, canceled performances, and reduced philanthropic support is being felt across every supervisorial district in Orange County and threatens the future of the sector.

ArtsOC surveyed leaders from 42 OC arts organizations of all sizes and arts disciplines. The results show a staggering impact to the sector from the COVID-19 crisis:

- Nearly 1 million admissions (977,155) have been lost due to cancelled events.
- 62% of arts entities anticipate a severe financial impact from the crisis.
- 31% of arts organizations have been forced to lay-off or furlough staff.
- 43% have implemented salary reductions.
- 52% are depleting cash reserves to meet their obligations.

“Orange County’s arts organizations enrich and educate our community, expressing our common humanity through art. Our first concern is for the people suffering from this illness and for the many who are undergoing financial hardship as a result of the crisis—including the many artists who live and work in our community,” commented Richard Stein, President & CEO of ArtsOC. “Sadly, it is apparent from the survey that the arts organizations who serve our citizens and employ these artists are now themselves in serious jeopardy.”

OC Arts Generate \$1 Billion in Tax Revenue

According to the annual Otis Report on the Creative Economy, Orange County’s arts and creative sector, which includes more than 700 non-profit organizations, employs, directly and indirectly, over 90,000 people, accounts for more than 4 percent of Orange County’s gross economic product and generates nearly \$1 billion in state and local tax revenue.

“It’s not just artists, dancers, and musicians,” Stein added. “The arts community creates jobs and generates economic revenue for skilled trades and independent contractors, as well as

small businesses—such as suppliers on whom they depend and restaurants frequented by their audiences.”

Federal stimulus programs that were designed to include non-profit organizations, are failing to reach arts organizations in Orange County. Just 9 OC arts organizations surveyed have been approved for the Small Business Administration’s Payroll Protection Program.

Two Thirds of OC Arts Organizations Volunteering, Providing Community Support

Despite the devastating financial toll on their organizations, arts groups are stepping up to provide valuable community support and contribute to the positive mental health of Orange County residents.

More than two-thirds of arts organizations reported that they are contributing to the community’s COVID-19 mitigation efforts through informational messaging, volunteer service, and the donation of PPEs and other supplies.

To help raise community spirits and morale during the crisis, more than three-quarters of arts organizations are providing arts content digitally to the community. The nearly 100 online and virtual arts experiences they are offering are now prominently featured on SparkOC.com, ArtsOC’s free events website.

“Our arts sector has joined with the rest of the community in focusing efforts and resources upon the health and well-being of our County’s citizens,” Stein said. “The arts have a critical role to play in, and must be included in, any plan for resilience in Orange County.”

Organizations that participated in the survey are:

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| All-American Boys Chorus | Laguna Art Museum |
| Anaheim Ballet | Laguna Dance Festival |
| backhausdance | Laguna Playhouse |
| Baroque Music Festival of Corona del Mar | Meistersingers |
| Breath of Fire Latina Theater Ensemble | Men Alive! |
| Bowers Museum | Mission San Juan Capistrano |
| Camino Real Playhouse | Musical Theatre of Orange County |
| Casa Romantica Cultural Center & Gardens | Muckenthaler Cultural Center |
| Chance Theater | Musco Center for the Arts |
| Child Creativity Lab | Muzeo Museum and Cultural Center |
| Creative Kids Playhouse | Newport Beach Film Festival |
| Ektaa Center | National Choreographers Initiative |
| Festival Ballet Theatre | Orange County Ballet Theater |
| Festival of Arts & Pageant of the Masters | OC Center for Contemporary Art |
| The Frida Cinema | Orange County Museum of Art |
| Irvine Barclay Theatre | OC Music & Dance |

Orange County Women's Chorus
Pacific Chorale
Pacific Symphony
Philharmonic Society of Orange County
Segerstrom Center for the Arts
Soka Performing Arts Center

South Coast Repertory
South Coast Symphony
Vietnamese American Arts & Letters
Association
The Wooden Floor

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Arts Orange County's mission is to be the leader in building appreciation of, participation in and support for the arts and arts education in Orange County, California. A nonprofit organization incorporated in 1995, it is designated by the Board of Supervisors as the official local arts agency and State-Local Partner for the County of Orange. More information: <https://artsoc.org/>