

April 24, 2021

To: Honorable Senator Betsy Johnson

I am writing today to share important and difficult updates. Britt Festival's, among other Oregon venues are members of the Independent Venue Coalition, an Oregon based group of Live Performing Arts venues struggling to keep our organizations from going under. We are 100% volunteer driven. I serve on the outdoor venue committee. Nothing is going well for us and we need our state legislators to help.

There is no industry more devastated than the arts & entertainment sector - we continue to be indefinitely closed, with no pathway back to normal (all other states have articulated guidance and a plan to return to normal; this added factor is particularly devastating to our businesses). Our core team below represents over 100 venues in Oregon that present live arts and entertainment.

Marney Smith (Les Schwab Amphitheater, Bend)  
Donna Briggs (Britt Music and Arts Festival, Jacksonville)  
Crista Munro (Sisters Folk Festival, Sisters)  
Jennifer Crockett (Liberty Theater, Astoria)  
Jimi Biron (McMenamins, statewide)

At this point, there is no guarantee that Oregon venues will receive SVOG (SBA Shuttered Venue) funding. Furthermore, even if they do, it is not enough. More venues are going to have to call it quits because they cannot hold out any longer.

Oregon events are already indefinitely on hold and likely to be cancelled a second year in a row. Speaking on behalf of Britt, last year's \$2.7 million revenue loss cannot be repeated without catastrophic consequences. While we greatly appreciated, the 2020 Oregon CRF-DAS grant awards, venues need a second round because circumstances are actually worse than they were six months ago.

Please consider allocating addition funds to shuttered Oregon Performing Arts and Entertainment venues.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Respectfully,

Donna Briggs  
President and CEO  
Britt Music and Arts Festival  
Jacksonville, Oregon