



## CA LGBT Arts Alliance Newsletter

### **Art Events**

Due to COVID-19, California Is Under an Isolate at Home Health Policy - All Public Events Have Been Canceled for April

## Top of the News

### **Message From the Executive Director**

This is a rough time for all of us as we become housebound and have to distance ourselves from each other at the very moment we need each other most. During the COVID-19 crisis, it is our hope here that all of us can remain safe and well, but we are keenly aware that there are many in our community who are vulnerable - both healthwise and economically.

We have always come together to take care of each other, and we will certainly do so through this crisis. Our artists and filmmakers, who tell our stories and will tell this story when it is time, are here for us now. They provide the means to entertain us but also to keep us engaged. We may not be able to sit together and experience the joy of seeing ourselves portrayed in all of our humanity and complexity, but we can watch and absorb and be moved and laugh and still talk to each other using a variety of platforms. We can still share the experience. That is the true power of art.

~ Dante Alencastre, *Executive Director*

We are continuing to update a list of key resources that are relevant to both independent artists and cultural workers as well as arts organizations and collectives. You will find emergency funding opportunities, information for freelance workers, information for nonprofit organizations, statements from arts service organizations, surveys & needs assessments, and self-care tips.

[View the Resource Directory.](#)

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## Department of Cultural Affairs Arts Emergency Relief Fund

As part of its ongoing efforts to respond to the disruption caused by COVID-19 and its impact on our LA arts community, the Department of Cultural Affairs today is launching Round One of the **Arts Emergency Relief Fund**.

In this initial round of funding, City of Los Angeles-based dance, music, and theatre artists, as well as small ensembles (2-4 artists) who have had their public performances, shows, or concerts cancelled can request up to \$400 (solo artists) or \$1,200 (small ensembles) in emergency relief. These unrestricted micro-grants are intended to offset losses in income, time, and materials that were committed toward public events in the City of LA but were cancelled due to the pandemic.

For more information, including application instructions, please visit DCA's website at:

<https://culturela.org/grants-and-calls/aer-fund/>

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## Californians For The Arts Covid 19 Resources

This resource for artists includes these articles:

- COVID-19 Pandemic Response & California's Arts Ecosystem:  
A CAA Letter to Governor Newsome and Legislative Leaders
- Americans for the Arts and the Arts Action Fund are standing up for the arts in America during COVID-19!
- COVID-19 California Arts Field Survey

[Read More](#)

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## Using Art for Connection During Social Distancing

**Creative Prompts And Projects To Do During Social Distancing**

Times are calling for us to find new ways for connection & creativity.

[Read More](#)

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**Meditations To Ease The Artist's Mind**

Here are mindfulness techniques to help alleviate anxiety.

[Read More](#)

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### **How To Experience Art & Culture During Coronavirus**

Use the arts to virtually travel and explore, connect and communicate—all from your home, while sheltering-in-place.

[Read More](#)

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### **Share Your Story**

Artists, we want to know more about your experiences and how the COVID-19 outbreak has impacted your work.

[Read More](#)

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### **ONE Archives Foundation #Queerantime**

The ONE Archives Foundation is curating recommendations to help keep you informed and entertained during this time of self-isolation. We are sharing how we stay connected with the LGBTQ community through content. We invite you to follow us on social media, where we release a recommendation a day.

[Read More](#)

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## **Emergency Funding Resources for Independent Artists**

[TERRIFIC LIST WITH LINKS TO:](#) Emergency funding sources, interest free loans, temporary remote job opportunities, health and mental health resources, and more (including a surprising article about how to properly clean your cell phone)

Are you a member of SAG-AFTRA in good standing? The SAG-AFTRA Foundation and the Motion Picture Players Welfare Fund have established a [COVID-19 DISASTER FUND](#) to assist eligible SAG-AFTRA members who have been impacted by the pandemic. And in response to the high volume of requests, they just this week streamlined their online application process.

*LA Stage Alliance* has produced this [RESOURCE LIST with a section on temporary work](#).

[CHANGE, INC.:](#) Emergency grants for artists in all disciplines needing help with rent, medical expenses, utility bills, fire damage, etc. Grants up to \$1,000.

[FOUNDATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTS:](#) Emergency Grants provide urgent funding (\$500-\$2,500) for visual and performing artists who incur

unexpected or unbudgeted expenses for projects close to completion with committed exhibition or performance dates.

[RAUSCHENBERG EMERGENCY GRANTS](#): The fund provides one-time cash grants of up to \$5,000 to cover expenses caused by one-time, unexpected medical emergencies.

[MUSICIAN'S FOUNDATION](#): Grants typically range in amount from approximately \$500-\$3,000.

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## **Unemployment Benefits**

### **Who will be covered by the expanded program?**

The plan wraps in far more workers than are usually eligible for unemployment benefits, including self-employed people and part-time workers.

The bottom line: Those who are unemployed, are partly unemployed or cannot work for a wide variety of coronavirus-related reasons will be more likely to receive benefits.

### **How much will I receive?**

It depends on your state.

Benefits will be expanded in an attempt to replace the average worker's paycheck, explained Andrew Stettner, a senior fellow at the Century Foundation, a public policy research group. The average worker earns about \$1,000 a week, and unemployment benefits often replace roughly 40 to 45 percent of that. The expansion will pay an extra amount to fill the gap.

Under the plan, eligible workers will get an extra \$600 per week on top of their state benefit. But some states are more generous than others. According to the Century Foundation, the maximum weekly benefit in Alabama is \$275, but it's \$450 in California and \$713 in New Jersey.

So let's say a worker was making \$1,100 per week in New York; she'd be eligible for the maximum state unemployment benefit of \$504 per week. Under the new expansion, she gets an additional \$600 of federal pandemic unemployment compensation, for a total of \$1,104, essentially replacing her original paycheck.

States have the option of providing the entire amount in one payment, or sending the extra portion separately. But it must all be done on the same weekly basis.

### **Are gig workers, freelancers and independent contractors covered?**

Yes, self-employed people are newly eligible for unemployment benefits. Benefit amounts will be calculated based on previous income, using a formula from the [Disaster Unemployment Assistance program](#), according to a congressional aide.

Self-employed workers will also be eligible for the additional \$600 weekly benefit provided by the federal government.

### **What if I'm a part-time worker who lost my job because of a coronavirus reason, but my state doesn't cover part-time workers? Am I still eligible?**

Yes. Part-time workers are eligible for benefits, but the benefit amount and how long benefits will last depend on your state.

They are also eligible for the additional \$600 weekly benefit.

### **What if I have Covid-19 or need to care for a family member who has it?**

If you've received a diagnosis, are experiencing symptoms or are seeking a diagnosis — and you're unemployed, partly unemployed or cannot work as a result — you will be covered. The same goes if you must care for a member of your family or household who has received a diagnosis.

### **What if my child's school or day care shut down?**

If you rely on a school, a day care or another facility to care for a child, elderly parent or another household member so that you can work — and that facility has been shut down because of coronavirus — you are eligible.

Sign up to receive our daily Coronavirus Briefing, an informed guide with the latest developments and expert advice.

### **What if I've been advised by a health care provider to quarantine myself because of exposure to coronavirus? And what about broader orders to stay home?**

People who must self-quarantine are covered. The legislation also says that individuals who are unable to get to work because of a quarantine imposed as a result of the outbreak are eligible.

### **I was about to start a new job and now can't get there because of an outbreak.**

You're eligible for benefits. You will also be covered if you were immediately laid off from a new job and did not have a sufficient work history to qualify for benefits under normal circumstances.

**I had to quit my job as a direct result of coronavirus. Would I be eligible to apply for benefits?**

It depends. Let's say your employer didn't lay you off but you had to quit because of a quarantine recommended by a health care provider, or because your child's day care closed and you're the primary caregiver. Situations like that are covered.

But this provision wasn't intended to cover people who quit (or want to quit) because they fear that continuing to work puts them at risk of contracting coronavirus, according to congressional aides.

**My employer shut down my workplace because of coronavirus. Am I eligible?**

Yes. If you are unemployed, partly unemployed or unable to work because your employer closed down, you're covered under the bill.

**The breadwinner of my household has died as a result of coronavirus. I relied on that person for income, and I'm not working. Is that covered?**

Yes.

**Whom does the bill leave out?**

Workers who are able to work from home, and those receiving paid sick leave or paid family leave are not covered. New entrants to the work force who cannot find jobs are also ineligible.

**How long will the payments last?**

Many states already provide 26 weeks of benefits, though some states have trimmed that back while others provide a sliding scale tied to unemployment levels.

The bill provides all eligible workers with an additional 13 weeks. So participants in states with 26 weeks would be eligible for a total of 39 weeks. The total amount cannot exceed 39 weeks, but it may be shorter in certain states.

The extra \$600 payment will last for up to four months, covering weeks of unemployment ending July 31.

### **How long would the broader program last?**

Expanded coverage would be available to workers who were newly eligible for unemployment benefits for weeks starting on Jan. 27, 2020, and through Dec. 31, 2020.

### **I'm already receiving unemployment benefits. Will I receive any help?**

Yes. Even if you're already receiving unemployment benefits for reasons unrelated to the coronavirus, your state-level benefits will still be extended by 13 weeks. You will also receive the extra \$600 weekly benefit from the federal government.

### **My unemployment recently ran out — could I sign up again?**

Yes. If you've exhausted your benefits, eligible workers can generally reapply. But how much you get and for how long depends on the state where you worked. Everyone gets at least another 13 weeks, along with the extra \$600 payment.

### **Will this income disqualify me from any other programs?**

Maybe. The additional \$600 benefit counts as income when determining eligibility for means-tested programs, except for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, known as CHIP.

### **How long will I need to wait for benefits?**

States have been incentivized to waive the one-week waiting period, but it's unclear how long it will take to process claims — especially with state offices so strained by a flood of them.

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[Art Events Calendar](#)

**Please Note: Because of Covid-19 Virus precautions, all events in California are cancelled or postponed through at least April 30th**

## Artist Calls & Grants

The California Arts Council (CAC) maintains a database dedicated to opportunities for artists, from local to global, including gallery calls.

[ARTIST CALLS AT CAC](#)

In addition to its own grant program offerings, the California Arts Council (CAC) keeps a database dedicated to arts and culture funding opportunities available from the field at large.

[GRANTS AT CAC](#)



## Donate

*Your donations help pay for web hosting, our monthly newsletter, monthly arts calendar and the artists that we present. Thank You!*

[Donate With PayPal](#)

## About the CA LGBT Arts Alliance

The mission of The California LGBT Arts Alliance is to promote artistic and financial partnerships that strengthen and deepen the cooperative relationship among California's LGBT non-profit arts organizations and individual artists.

The California LGBT Arts Alliance is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization.

Website: <http://calgbtartsalliance.com/>

Email : [calgbtarts@gmail.com](mailto:calgbtarts@gmail.com)

THANK YOU!

*CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL  
THE CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION  
CITY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS*

For information about CAC visit its website: <http://www.cac.ca.gov>

Get your personalized ART license plate. website: <https://www.artsplate.org/>

Proceeds from the plate sales directly benefit the California Arts Council (CAC).

For information about the City of West Hollywood Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission visit: <http://www.weho.org/residents/arts-and-culture>

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