To: Southeastern CT Council of Governments  
Re: Liaison Report  
For: SCCOG meeting Wednesday, June 17  
From: Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition

The Cultural Coalition serves 500 + partners, including museums, performing arts centers, small and large creative businesses and individual artists/performers.

Our third, local economic survey, “MAY Update COVID Impact Survey – Southeastern CT’s Arts & Cultural Organizations, Businesses and Artists” closed and updated data to include lost audiences and revenue through June 30, a 16-week time period. Survey showed:

- $16M in estimated total financial losses (nonprofit and for profit arts & cultural sector)
- 700K estimated lost audience members, program attendees, or customers
- At least 700 staff impacted by layoffs, furlough or reduced hours through April 30
- More than half of arts & cultural businesses could not reopen in May
- 63% of respondents applied to Federal, State, Local Government Relief Programs (such as CT Dept. of Labor Unemployment, Pandemic Unemployment, CARES Act PPP or EIDL, NEA, NEH, CT Office of the Arts grants, SBA Community Block grant)
- Of those who applied to government programs, the majority (67%) anticipate that the relief received will only offset a small percentage of their total financial losses or they do not know what level of support to expect

Operational health of organization/business (based on current situation/projections)
- 87% arts & cultural entities are currently sustaining reporting Fair (49%), Average (26%), Good (12%) operational health and 75% expecting to keep at moderate levels to September
- Uncertainty of operations grows in the 3rd and 4th quarters, with 12% not able to estimate the level of health at the end of summer and 23% not able to predict the level for the end of the calendar year
- Organizations and businesses at a strong/excellent level (2%) or at a critical level (9%-12%) remains consistent over time from now to the end of the calendar year

Recommendations for Municipalities with confederate statues or monuments

Consider having artists “reimagine” the monuments with a request for proposals:

  Lighting artist Dustin Klein covers the Lee monument with projected images of black victims of violence

Impact on Tourism Fund – Public support in CT comes from the Tourism Fund, which is derived from hotel lodging tax revenue. Below is an updated table for the estimated Tourism Fund balance based on the latest April Consensus estimates. The expenditure estimates shown here assume the FY 21 appropriations continue through the outyears. (From Senator Formica’s office)
Our mission is to improve the economy, vitality and quality of life in Southeastern Connecticut by supporting the arts, cultural and creative community.