



January 19, 2022

The Hon. Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

As leaders of museums from across the United States, we write to you today to thank you for your outstanding support for museums as fundamental components of K-12 and lifelong education, vibrant economic actors, vital contributors to civic literacy, and trusted sources of reliable and factual information.

Museums are facing a slow recovery that will take years due to the dire financial impacts of the pandemic. A third wave of reduced capacity and potential closures, without further federal assistance, is proving extremely difficult for museums already struggling to recover.

We therefore request your support for additional funds to be provided to the SBA's Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) program, as well as for the Paycheck Protection Program, for museums ineligible for SVOG due to its requirement that museums have "fixed seating."

Over the past few weeks, museums across the country have announced temporary closures or reduced hours in response to the surge of COVID-19 cases or to accommodate unprecedented staff shortages. Such adaptations may be necessary throughout this year as we continue to fight the pandemic.

Museums have proved crucial to their communities' resiliency during the pandemic, from donating PPE to providing virtual education and bolstering vaccine confidence. They are providing lesson plans, online learning opportunities, and drop-off learning kits to teachers and families. They are using their outdoor spaces to grow produce for food banks, as well as maintaining these spaces for individuals to safely relax and recover from the mental health impacts of social isolation. They provide access to childcare and meals to families of health care workers and first responders, have donated their PPE and scientific equipment to fight COVID-19, and are even serving as vaccination centers. Going forward, they will employ strategies developed by the Institute of Museum and Library Services at your direction to promote civic engagement and participation in the voting process.

Additional relief funding through SVOG, PPP, or other appropriate means will be crucial as museums continue to play these essential roles in service to the community and the nation.

Thank you again for your understanding and support.

Sincerely,

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