



National Coalition for Arts' Preparedness & Emergency Response

[www.NCAPER.org](http://www.NCAPER.org)

The National Coalition for Arts' Preparedness and Emergency Response (NCAPER), a voluntary task force of national, regional, state and local arts organizations, public agencies, and foundations<sup>1</sup>, helps ensure that artists, arts/cultural organizations, cultural funders, and arts businesses have the capacity and ability to respond effectively to disasters and emergencies affecting the arts and culture sector.

## ARTS ORGANIZATIONS AT A CROSSROADS

The current pandemic has created a devastating impact on the world economy and the arts and culture sector at the same time that a rise in social activism through the Black Lives Matter movement is affecting communities across the U.S. In this moment, the fault lines of inequity, a broken public health system, and a fragile funding system for the arts – as well as many other social and economic issues – are coming into clearer focus. These issues not only affect the sustainability of a healthy arts sector, individually and collectively, they put at risk the very artists and arts organizations at the heart of community cohesion and expression.

[NCAPER](http://www.NCAPER.org), as a “national safety net for artists and arts organizations,” recognizes that across our country many arts and culture organizations, if not able to re-open soon, face harsh realities such as budget cuts, furloughs, layoffs, cancelled artist engagements, lost revenue, and extending the experience of being disconnected from their community members.

NCAPER is working with other national arts organizations in the field<sup>2</sup> to understand what is currently taking place across the country, to provide organizations in distress with information and resources to protect their assets (artistic, financial and otherwise), and to

encourage candid conversations around these crises for arts organizations to destigmatize issues around restructures, hiatus, suspensions and closures. We're calling this effort “Arts Organizations at a Crossroads” (OAX).

The [Arts Organizations at a Crossroads \(OAX\)](#) project focuses on existential crises and decisions faced by nonprofit and for-profit arts organizations, as distinct from the topics of re-opening, developing COVID-safe programming, and navigating governmental and private funding opportunities (unless they intersect directly with the content by this project). OAX addresses issues of executive management and governance. Our initial activity includes:

- A field scan to determine who and where conversations around organizational structure/survival are taking place, and who is responding
- Collecting information about education and counseling activity taking place and sharing this with the broader arts community.

For more information, please contact [motoole@ncaper.org](mailto:motoole@ncaper.org).



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<sup>1</sup> **NCAPER Organizational Members:** The Actors Fund, Americans for the Arts, CERF+, Grantmakers in the Arts, Joan Mitchell Foundation, MusiCares, National Endowment for the Arts, National Performance Network, New York Foundation for the Arts, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, Performing Arts Readiness project, South Arts/ArtsReady.

<sup>2</sup> **Project Partners to date:** Americans for the Arts, New York Foundation for the Arts, Performing Arts Readiness Project as of Wednesday, September 16, 2020.