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ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS

## eNews

UPDATES &amp; OPPORTUNITIES FOR CALIFORNIA'S ORCHESTRAS &amp; CLASSICAL MUSIC FIELD

December 3, 2020

## Virtual Peer Forums are Coming Back in 2021 - Register Now!

ACSO is excited to announce the next round of Virtual Peer Forums (VPFs) coming in 2021. We are offering 33 different forums for 11 different peer groups between January and June, giving you lots of chances to network up a storm.

Virtual Peer Forums are peer-to-peer conversations led by a facilitator and designed to connect you with your counterparts at other orchestras and ensembles in the ACSO membership network.



They provide a space to discuss working during times of transition, to exchange ideas, to ask questions, to share challenges, and to offer practices that have worked well (or not) for you and your organization. Most importantly, it is an opportunity to strengthen your professional networks and find colleagues to rely on for support.

VPFs are complimentary for members and \$10 for not-yet-members. Registration is required and limited to 20 per peer forum to maximize conversation time and allow everyone to participate.

[See the 2021 schedule and register here.](#) Don't delay – they will fill up quickly!

## #RestartArtsCA Awareness Campaign Starts on Monday



Are you getting ready to be part of next week's statewide #RestartArtsCA awareness campaign? Be sure to use the [toolkit](#) to reach out to your local press, write an op-ed, target your elected officials, and post on social media. Post all your content during the week of December 7 and encourage your audiences to take action with us and #RestartArtsCA.

Together, we will take action to urge the Newsom administration to develop and release safe guidelines for reopening live events in light of COVID-19 and to see our sector as part of the solution, not the problem.

*An important note from the campaign organizers: As coronavirus surges in California, we are not advocating to reopen arts until it is safe to do so and in accordance with public health. However we are advocating for state issued guidelines so the arts sector can prepare to open and have parity with other sectors such as restaurants, shopping malls, cultural ceremonies, fitness centers, and so on. We also want to be seen as part of the solution to the public health crisis offering an outlet for safe events and the mental health benefits of the arts. In addition, artists and culturally specific messaging will be integral to communicating the new behaviors we must adopt to get through this crisis. Wear a mask, stay safe, and stay home as much as possible. We are all in this together.*

## Join ACSO's Month of Giving

This week we launched our first ever all-virtual fundraising campaign with a goal to raise \$5,000 by the end of December to support our programs, advocacy efforts, and member services in the new year. The money raised will help us provide the much-needed professional development and member

support that we set out to deliver in 2021, including our Ask an Expert Webinars and popular Virtual Peer Forums. Thank you for supporting our work to build the capacity and strength of orchestras and ensembles in California and beyond!

[DONATE NOW](#)

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## Just Announced by Governor Newsom: New Small Business Relief Fund Includes Grants for Nonprofits & Cultural Institutions

On November 30, Governor Newsom announced a package of assistance for small businesses, nonprofits, and cultural institutions that have been impacted by COVID and the health and safety restrictions, including sales tax relief, \$500 million in grants, and an [additional \\$12.5 million added to the California Rebuilding Fund](#).

Any small business or nonprofit interested in the \$500 million grant program can sign up here for updates from the California's Office of the Small Business Advocate that is working quickly to establish the program; for updates please sign up [here](#).

Funds would be awarded to selected intermediaries with established networks of Community Development Financial Institutions to distribute relief through grants of up to \$25,000 to underserved micro and small businesses throughout the state by early 2021.

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## California Arts Council Grant Deadlines Announced

The California Arts Council announced the opening of its 2021 grant season, with applications now being accepted for two of its six grants, responding to the current and urgent needs of the state's arts workforce and businesses.

Grant priorities include an increase of general operating support for arts organizations. Grants prioritize small and economically vulnerable organizations with total operating revenues of \$250,000 or less, at risk for closure or halting of activities due to economic impacts from the COVID-19

pandemic. Direct support for individual artists and creative practitioners is also a high priority this year.

Two [applications](#) are open now and the remaining four open December 18!

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## League of American Orchestras' Ford Musician Impact Fund Application Deadline is Dec 17

Orchestra musicians are now recording “at home” performances and creating educational programming for virtual broadcast in support of their organizations during the pandemic. Increasingly, sound and video quality have become an important metric for a successful online experience. [The Ford Musician Impact Fund](#) will assist musicians in need of hardware and accessories to make their digital presence stronger, giving them the professional tools they need to deliver at the highest level in our current reality.