



SEP 29 2022

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am signing Senate Bill 1116, which creates the Performing Arts Equitable Payroll Fund. This bill could provide much needed support grants to Small Nonprofit Performing Arts Organizations, to help them offset a portion of their payroll costs.

The creative arts industry was amongst the hardest hit by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am proud of the economic and cultural contributions that our arts workers provide to California, and support industry-led efforts to improve their ability to succeed and continue to enhance our communities. Without community arts organizations, many of our small and disadvantaged communities may not have access to the arts.

The 2021 Budget Act appropriated \$150 million in Venues Grants, \$50 million in Nonprofit Performing Arts Grants, and \$50 million in Small Business Covid-19 Relief Grants for Nonprofit Cultural Institutions administered by the Office of the Small Business Advocate. The 2021 Budget also included \$500,000 to the California Arts Council to establish a nonprofit paymaster.

Though I am signing this bill, the grant program it creates is subject to funding. I encourage the author and stakeholders to work through the budget process to address the funding needed for these grants, as has been done in previous budgets to finance these existing programs.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom

