

**NATIONAL INDEPENDENT VENUE ASSOCIATION SET TO TESTIFY BEFORE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PANEL**

Jan. 18, 2022 The House of Representatives Committee on Small Business will hold a remote hearing titled “The Power, Peril, and Promise of The Creative Economy” **tomorrow, Jan. 19 at 10am ET** and [The National Independent Venue Association](#) will be represented by NIVA chapter secretary Raeanne Presley, who is the co-owner of Presleys’ Theater in Branson, Missouri. Ms. Presley will be discussing the special challenges small, independent businesses in this industry are experiencing at this juncture of the pandemic.

Representing nearly 5.2 million American workers, the arts sector is a major component of the economy. Unfortunately, this industry has been exceptionally hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and its recovery has been slower than many others. The hearing will provide insights into where our industry stands today, the issues we are confronting in the current economy and provide a roadmap for bringing arts, culture, and creativity into the center of long-term recovery. Members will hear from Presley, a small business owner, and other experts and creative entrepreneurs to demonstrate the power of the creative economy and its importance to a robust recovery.

To view a livestream of the hearing, click [here](#).

Other witnesses include representatives from Be An #ArtsHero, Actors’ Equity Association and Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

ABOUT NIVA

Formed April 2020 at the onset of the COVID-19 shutdown, National Independent Venue Association (NIVA) represents independent music and comedy venues, promoters, and festivals throughout the U.S. NIVA created and led the #SaveOurStages campaign, resulting in landmark legislation establishing the \$16 billion Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program administered by the Small Business Administration. NIVA's mission is to preserve and nurture the ecosystem of independent live venues, promoters, and festivals throughout the United States. The National Independent Venue Foundation (NIVF) was founded to further this mission by also seeking to support a transparent, competitive marketplace serving a diverse and inclusive community of artists, fans, and industry workers. NIVA is committed to equity in its support and advocacy for independent venues and seeks to create and encourage opportunities for venues, promoters, and festivals owned, operated, and staffed by people of color, women, non-binary, LGBTQ+, veterans, and people with disabilities.

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