



NATIONAL INDEPENDENT VENUE ASSOCIATION (NIVA) SELECTS BINDLE AS THE PREFERRED VENDOR FOR HEALTH VERIFICATION PLATFORM

Sept. 14, 2021 — The National Independent Venue Association (NIVA), the trade group of 3,000 independent music and comedy venues, festivals, and promoters, which was formed at the onset of the pandemic and secured \$16 billion in emergency relief through the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, announced today that it has secured a partnership with Bindle, a digital health verification software built to respect privacy, security, and equity in reopening safely. The Bindle app allows audience members, employees, and artists to securely store their COVID-19 test and vaccination records, and then transform them into entry passes that comply with a venue’s specific entry requirements. It is HIPAA-compliant, requires no special hardware, and strictly maintains all users’ right to privacy.

“It’s clear that vaccinations are the ticket out of this pandemic, and the way to gather again safely,” said NIVA Executive Director Rev. Moose. “Many of our members across the nation are having additional challenges with reopening that will be allayed with the help of the Bindle app. We’ve made arrangements to ensure our members will get access to this health verification technology at a fraction of the cost, thanks to our once again coming together as an industry.”

Bindle is designed so individuals retain 100% control of their personal health information. No other group ever sees this data — not venues, not government entities, and not even Bindle. The Bindle platform was also specifically designed for freedom of choice: people who are not vaccinated can instead add proof of a recent negative COVID-19 test. The software is free to individuals and priced affordably for venues. Every type of location, from a small space to a large festival ground, can use the technology to verify COVID-19 health status.

“The live entertainment industry is such an essential part of America’s culture, we are proud to be working with NIVA to help independent performance venues safely reopen - and stay open.” said Gus Warren, co-founder and CEO of Bindle Systems. “As a Public Benefit Corporation, we intentionally built and priced our system to be widely deployed, and this partnership is a great example of that approach.”

About NIVA

Formed at the onset of the COVID-19 shutdown, National Independent Venue Association ([NIVA](#)), represents more than 3,000 members in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. NIVA created and led the #SaveOurStages campaign, resulting in landmark legislation establishing the 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.

About Bindle Systems

Bindle Systems is a Public Benefit Corporation founded in the early days of COVID-19 to build software tools for pandemic defense. Our first product is a private proof-of-health system specifically designed to safely reopen communities without sacrificing freedoms or civil liberties. Individuals use Bindle as a health wallet to securely carry vaccine records, test results, and symptom surveys. Workplaces, schools, and other venues use Bindle to quickly and anonymously verify the COVID-19 health status of employees, students, customers, and guests. Bindle is safer than the “honor system” and more private than “vaccine passports.” Individuals have complete control of their data and no personal health information is ever shared with venues, the government, or even Bindle itself. The platform was designed and commercialized by serial entrepreneurs who have also held executive product and technology roles at AOL, American Express, CLEAR, Samsung, and Time Warner. Our team has expertise across multiple disciplines including infectious disease, public health, social impact, privacy-by-design, cryptography, decentralized computing, and open source software. More information can be found at <https://joinbindle.com>.

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