

National Independent Venue Association Statement
Re: Bipartisan Senate Letter to SBA Administrator Guzman

June 15, 2021 -- The National Independent Venue Association (NIVA) is grateful to the bipartisan list of Senators, led by Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) and Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY), who issued a letter today to SBA Administrator Isabella Guzman stating: “The Save Our Stages Act, now the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant (SVOG) program, was created to prevent widespread closures of venues that been devastated by the loss of revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic.... It has been nearly 6 months since Congress passed the Save Our Stages Act, nearly 2 months since the second launch of the program, and 51 days since the Small Business Administration began receiving applications. We urge you to immediately take steps to ensure the funds are distributed to qualified applicants.”

The Senate letter can be found [here](#).

“Fewer than 1 percent of applicants have received awards as of today, so we appreciate all efforts to get this \$16 billion in emergency relief to those who desperately need it to #SaveOurStages,” said NIVA Executive Director Rev. Moose.

ABOUT NIVA

Formed at the onset of the COVID-19 shutdown, the National Independent Venue Association (NIVA), now represents more than 3,000 venues, promoters, and festivals in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. NIVA, a 501(c)6, created and led the #SaveOurStages campaign, resulting in landmark legislation establishing the “Shuttered Venue Operators” Grant program to be 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 as a 501(c)3 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. The NIVA Emergency Relief Fund directly supports the preservation of the independent live entertainment ecosystem that presents music, comedy, and the performing arts, helping these critical spaces survive through the Coronavirus pandemic. Individuals, foundations, businesses, and organizations that are interested in financially supporting NIVA, NIVF, or the NIVA Emergency Relief Fund should visit nivassoc.org/donate.—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.