

SEATTLE INDEPENDENT ARTIST SUSTAINABILITY EFFORT



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Seattle Independent Artists Sustainability Effort Formed in Response to COVID-19 Outbreak

Contact: Matthew Lang - (425) 499 3476 or press.siase@gmail.com

[Seattle Independent Artists Sustainability Effort \(SIASE\)](#) is a horizontal coalition formed by and for artists to enhance self-determination and secure both the short and long term sustainability of our communities through documentation, coordination, and direct advocacy. As an inaugural project, SIASE is launching a community-led documentation effort that has captured \$1,675,981.52 in losses sustained by Seattle's creatives- a number that grows by the hour.

Carolyn Hitt of [Blue Cone Studios](#), a collaborative space dedicated to supporting and promoting independent local BIPOC, queer, and neurodivergent artists, lamented, "If I can't cover the studio rent, we may not have a studio at the end of this. Now we wait to see if any of the foundation funds will reach us. The uncertainty is debilitating but there really is no other option than to press forward and continue creating. Maybe someone will see."

The financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is hitting the arts ecosystem in Seattle with devastating force- with little recourse or governmental relief in sight. Artists across all disciplines are losing critical income in droves. As gig work and contracts are postponed or outright canceled and all gathering places closed indefinitely, the situation for local artists - who were already enduring economic precarity to exist in one of the most increasingly expensive cities in the world - has now reached a new, critical level.

"Balance of Concepts LLC is approaching 5k in loss, and a projected 5k/month loss ongoing, plus additional fees and costs of regaining momentum. I will have to close if I can't meet financial obligations," reported Troy "Intylekt" Sheppard, founder of BOC - one of a handful of Black-owned recording studios persisting in city limits, which also houses the operation of multiple creative businesses as well as a collective of independent producers. This reality is why SIASE has coalesced.

Kyle Hartmann, a core organizer of SIASE puts it this way: "At the start of this crisis, it became abundantly clear that the dire need for transparency and solidarity was non-negotiable in ensuring the survival of our arts and culture community. Each independent artist holds a vital role in sustaining the lifeblood of arts in Seattle, and this community-led documentation amplifies our collective voices in an effort to finally be heard. We cannot afford to be patient while major foundations decide where and when to direct financial relief."

This is the first call to action introduced by SIASE as their emergent work unfolds. "Artists and cultural workers exist at potent intersections of humanity. We are galvanizing points, and our presence is vital to the health and wellness of our broader communities and movements," says Julie-C of the Seattle Artists Coalition for Equitable Development, "SIASE is activating the power and creative resiliency of the Seattle arts ecosystem towards community-driven solutions - for COVID-19 relief now, but also for lasting systemic change far beyond any current catalyst."

Media & Press: press.siase@gmail.com | General Inquiries: seattleindependentartist@gmail.com

Website: <http://artistsustainability.org>