

# DALLAS ARTS & CULTURAL FACILITY OPENING GUIDELINES

Updated July 15, 2020

As Texas works to reopen from its COVID-19 closures, members of the Dallas nonprofit arts and cultural community have created guidelines to resume operations once authorized to do so. The standards capture overarching safety principles and risk mitigation practices in our industries that will guide the policies and strategies unique to each organization's art form, audiences, artists, and venues. This is a living document. We will regularly assess the evolving status of the pandemic in North Texas and will, in alignment with the latest scientific and medical recommendations, make changes accordingly. These guidelines have been reviewed by Dr. Trish Perl, Chief, Division of Infectious Diseases at UT Southwestern Medical Center and her recommendations have been incorporated.

## Background:

Arts and culture define the identity of Dallas. It's an industry which, before COVID-19, had an annual economic impact of close to \$1B supporting 33,000 jobs. Each year, the economic impact generated by these small businesses produce more than \$45M in local tax revenues.<sup>1</sup> Our diverse, growing cultural community has supported our reputation as a creative, vibrant city helping to attract talent, jobs, and corporate relocations to Dallas. They create economic, cultural, tourism, and quality-of-life ripple effects touching every corner of our city. To resume operations, we are adopting reasonable measures as a roadmap to reduce risk moving forward while providing a safe, welcoming, and respectful patron experience.

## Guiding Principles for Reopening to the Public:

Each organization will determine risk mitigation factors for external and internal conditions that will allow for its reopening and ongoing specific operating procedures. This builds on the guidance from the Governor, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and City and County health and public safety authorities.

Before reopening, each organization will develop its own risk mitigation plans for its unique venues and art form that will address:

- 1) Patrons and guests
- 2) Artists, lecturers, visiting companies and back-of-house staff
- 3) Docents, ushers, volunteers, concessions and front-of-house staff
- 4) Contractors (i.e. security, parking, concessions, etc.)
- 5) Office staff
- 6) Equity and accessibility

<sup>1</sup> 2015 Arts & Economic Prosperity 5, City of Dallas, Americans for the Arts





- Consider the use of acrylic screens, face shields, or similar protective barriers at key customer contact points in the patron path.
- No docent-guided tours will be allowed in the opening phase.
- Self-parking will be encouraged with updated protocols and training for parking employees, contractors, and volunteers.
- Work to support infection tracking efforts by local health officials when the situation warrants.
- Work with the facility's engineering team to maximize air circulation and filtration systems where possible.
- With the government's social distancing capacity limits as the legally allowed base, individual organizations may determine that a higher capacity must be reached to reopen in a safe and fiscally responsible way unique to their art form, venue, and experience.

#### **Theaters, Lecture Halls, and Concert Halls:**

- Create ticketing and seating strategies to ensure appropriate social distancing between individuals or parties while providing a good performance experience.
- Develop strategies to achieve social distancing in backstage spaces to protect artists and technical crews before, during, and after performances.
- Encourage the artists/producers to choose or adapt creative content, and develop staging strategies that mitigate the risk to artists, crews, and technicians during performances.

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This document represents the consensus view of the organizations listed below and is not intended to be binding on any of them. None of the organizations involved in the preparation of this document will have any liability to any person for a failure, inadvertently or intentionally, to follow, implement or enforce any of the policies and procedures described herein, and no person may rely on the policies or procedures as a basis for asserting any claim against any organization.

#### **Participating Dallas Cultural Organizations**

- ❖ *Anita N. Martinez Ballet Folklorico*
- ❖ *American Baroque Opera Company*
- ❖ *AT&T Performing Arts Center*
- ❖ *Avant Chamber Ballet*
- ❖ *Beckles Dancing Company*
- ❖ *Bishop Arts Theatre Company*
- ❖ *Bruce Wood Dance*



- ❖ Chamber Music International
- ❖ Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas
- ❖ City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture
  - Majestic Theatre
  - Moody Performance Hall
  - South Dallas Cultural Center
  - Latino Cultural Center
- ❖ Creative Arts Center of Dallas
- ❖ Crow Museum of Asian Art, University of Texas at Dallas
- ❖ Cry Havoc Theater Company
- ❖ Dallas Arts District Foundation
- ❖ Dallas Bach Society
- ❖ Dallas Black Dance Theatre
- ❖ Dallas Chamber Symphony
- ❖ Dallas Children's Theater
- ❖ Dallas Heritage Village at Old City Park
- ❖ Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum
- ❖ Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture
- ❖ Dallas Museum of Art
- ❖ The Dallas Opera
- ❖ Dallas Summer Musicals
- ❖ Dallas Symphony Orchestra
- ❖ Dallas Theater Center
- ❖ Dance Council of North Texas
- ❖ Danielle Georgiou Dance Group
- ❖ Echo Theatre
- ❖ Fine Arts Chamber Players
- ❖ Indique Dance Company
- ❖ Junior Players
- ❖ Klyde Warren Park
- ❖ Lone Star Wind Orchestra
- ❖ Lyric Stage
- ❖ Ollimpaxqui Ballet
- ❖ Orchestra of New Spain
- ❖ Orpheus Chamber Singers
- ❖ Nasher Sculpture Center
- ❖ Perot Museum of Nature and Science
- ❖ The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza
- ❖ Sammons Center for the Arts
- ❖ Shakespeare Dallas
- ❖ Soul Rep Theatre Company
- ❖ Texas Ballet Theater
- ❖ TITAS/Dance Unbound
- ❖ Turtle Creek Chorale
- ❖ Undermain Theatre
- ❖ Uptown Players
- ❖ Verdigris Ensemble
- ❖ The Women's Chorus of Dallas

