

# Milwaukee County Board: Approves \$700,000 for arts organizations impacted by COVID-19

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MILWAUKEE – At its Thursday, November 5 meeting, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors authorized \$700,000 for a program providing financial assistance to arts and cultural organizations adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The measure was part of a [resolution](#) from the Crowley administration adjusting the expenditures of Milwaukee County’s CARES Act funds from the federal government, which passed with 17 votes in favor and one abstention.

*“Our local arts and cultural organizations are vital to our community and I am proud that Milwaukee County will be giving them assistance in their time of need,” said **Supervisor Jason Haas**. “These organizations provide much needed sales tax revenue to the county, world-class entertainment and education to audiences from across the region and employment to hundreds of people. Their contributions to Milwaukee County are undeniable.”*

Details on the program’s administration have not yet been finalized. Initial plans include modeling the program after a similar one administered by the State of Wisconsin and prioritizing funding towards advancing racial equity. The Department of Administration and Parks Department will collaborate to develop a written method to be approved by County Executive Crowley.

Wisconsin’s arts and cultural organizations are among the hardest hit by the spike in unemployment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic according to an [August report](#) from the Wisconsin Policy Forum.

The resolution also includes funding for economic support and public health

programs. A small business grant first established in September received an additional \$5 million. Milwaukee County's eviction prevention program also received an additional \$5 million. \$1.8 million was allocated to provide funding for refrigerators, delivery vans, coolers and IT enhancements for food network organizations including Hunger Task Force and Feeding America.