

Survey Report

Athens-Clarke County (ACC) Georgia

Resident Artists' COVID-19 Economic Impacts

April 2020

Overview

The survey of ACC Artists' COVID-19 Economic Impacts was developed and distributed by an informal group of Athens' area arts organizations, dubbed the "Athens Arts Alliance." Participating organizations include the Lyndon House Arts Center, Athens Institute for Contemporary Art (ATHICA), Creature Comforts' Get Artistic program, tiny ATH gallery, the Georgia Museum of Art, the Athens Cultural Affairs Commission, the Athens Area Arts Council, the Athens-Clarke County Arts Division, and *Flagpole*.

The purpose of the survey was to gather information during this unprecedented time of pandemic, which is striking our culture as well as our health, in order to inform the local government about the challenges being faced by our creative community, many of whom have had their incomes reduced, eliminated, or threatened during this COVID-19 crisis. With this report, as well as through other efforts, the Athens Arts Alliance hopes to advocate for artists impacted by COVID-19 and to propose ideas for public art, beautification projects, grants, and other relief opportunities that the mayor, commission, city government, and the community will develop through the proposed Athens Resiliency Package as well as other avenues that will emerge.

The survey took place April 16, 2020 through April 22, 2020. The survey was open to the general public, but targeted towards Athens' creatives, a broad definition that is inclusive of all creative practice, including but not limited to visual artists, musicians, performers, dancers, makers, poets, and writers. The survey was distributed through multiple channels, reaching in excess of 5,000 potential responders. The anonymous survey was standardized on a Likert scale, with six mandatory multiple-choice questions and two optional open-ended questions.

The survey received 200 responses, a response rate of +-4%, with 159 reporting residence in ACC zip-codes. The responses compiled in this report are only those from ACC zip-codes, due to the intended audience of ACC governance. However, the 41 responses from non-ACC residents are still relevant to the Athens Arts Alliance, as most of these are from residents within our service areas, and also contribute important information to the group.

Summary of Survey Trends and Limitations

- *Artistic disciplines represented:* The majority (75%+) of the responses identified as visual artists.
- *Sources of Income:* Over half (53%) reported having earned income from their creative work. Close to half (44%) identified as having been self-employed.
- *Loss of Income:* The majority (77%) projected loss of income ranging from 25-100%. About a quarter (27%) projected losses in the highest range of 75-100%.

- *Other Creative and Economic Impacts:* The majority (71%) reported the negative impact of being separated from creative partners and/or community, closely followed (66%) by the negative impact of cancellation of performances, exhibitions, craft shows, workshops, or other public events. Half (50%) reported being unable to purchase art supplies and materials due to financial constraints. Almost a quarter (22%) reported having lost or being laid-off of one or more jobs.
- *Access to Relief:* The majority (42%) reported having accessed none of 10 listed sources of relief, followed by 16% having received an Economic Impact Payment (EIP) / Stimulus Payment and 14% having received unemployment.
- *Interest in Opportunities/Interventions:* There was not a clear preference expressed for most of the presented opportunities, with responses balanced across the spectrum of no interest to highest interest for each of the 9 listed. The greatest interest was expressed for post-COVID-19 programs to support artists. In addition, slight preferences can be seen for need-based grants for local businesses and organizations that support artists, as well as project-based grants for artists.
- *Personal Anecdotes and Recommendations:* Many anecdotes relate common themes about the challenges of living as an artist in Athens in terms of the local economy and the housing market pre-COVID-19, with the post-COVID-19 situation deteriorating. Many report complex work lives with multiple negative impacts. Recommendations include suggestions for affordable housing, affordable studio space, and greater support for artists.
- *Limitations of the Survey:*
 - The survey platform (Google Forms) does not offer tools for filtering and cross-tabulation. This work has been done in Excel, to the extent made possible by the survey design.
 - The survey did not collect demographics, such as age, income, or educational background, which could have afforded more granularity in understanding the economic impacts within responses that demonstrate a range of haves and have-nots but which would have required a survey platform with sufficiently sophisticated post-processing to derive such conclusions. (For example, are those with the least economic impact also those with the most economic security and does that equate to age?, etc.)
 - The survey did not assess interest in affordable studio space in question six, a lack of a parallelism with the economic impact items listed in question four.
 - The open response question results have not been coded for theme or positive-interesting-negative value spectrum, which would afford a distillation of the many voices and experiences expressed.

Next Steps

- Representatives from the Athens-Clarke County Arts Division will share the results with ACC groups involved in planning the Athens Resiliency Package component projects as well as other government areas considering related arts initiatives.
- The Athens Arts Alliance will review for possible projects and strategies.

Complete Survey Results from ACC Responders

Question One



Notes on Total: Responders were allowed to choose multiple disciplines; therefore, total is >159.

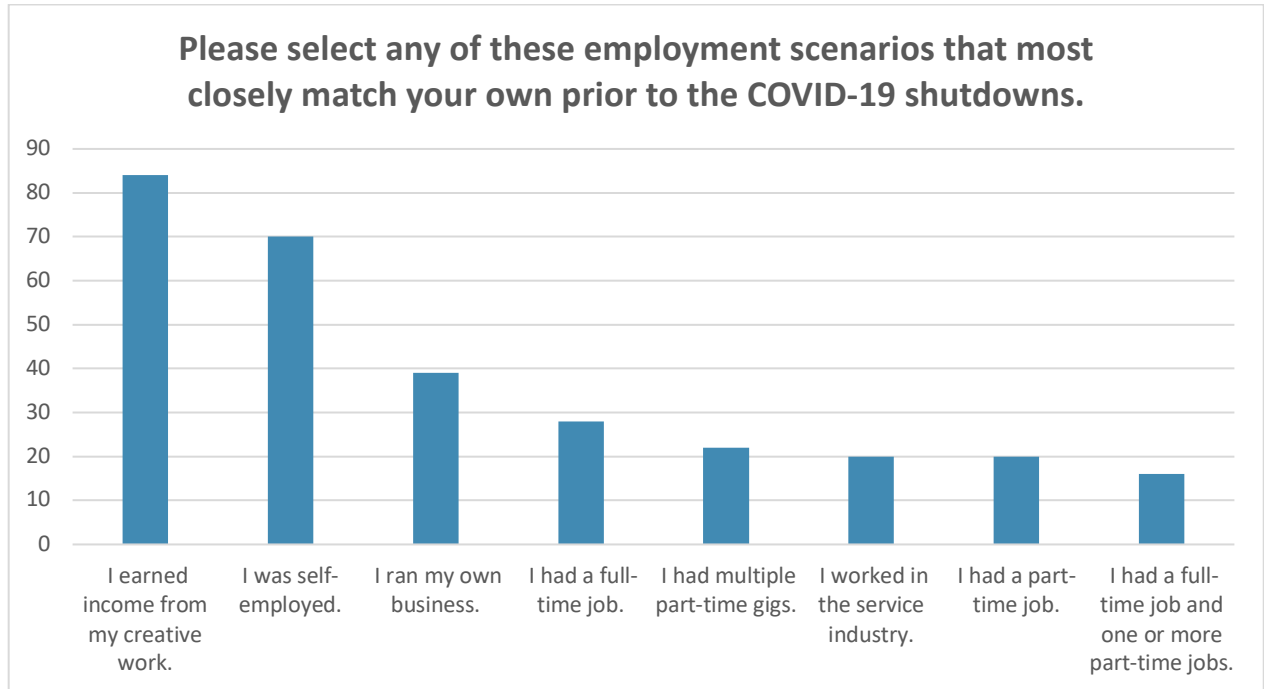
Percentages (of 159)

Visual Art: 77%
Music: 18%
Other: 10%
Performance: 9%
Literary Arts: 8%
Dance: 3%

Notes on "Other"

- 37% of those responding "other" cited tattooing/body art as their discipline.
- All "other" discipline responses: events, interdisciplinary/intercultural art collaborations, Leatherwork, Metal casting, Opera, Tattoo artist, Tattooing, Body art, Body art / tattooing, Charity Quilting, fiber arts, Furniture and kitchenware, Interior Design company, sewing and t-shirt design, Tattoo Artist, Tattooing

Question Two



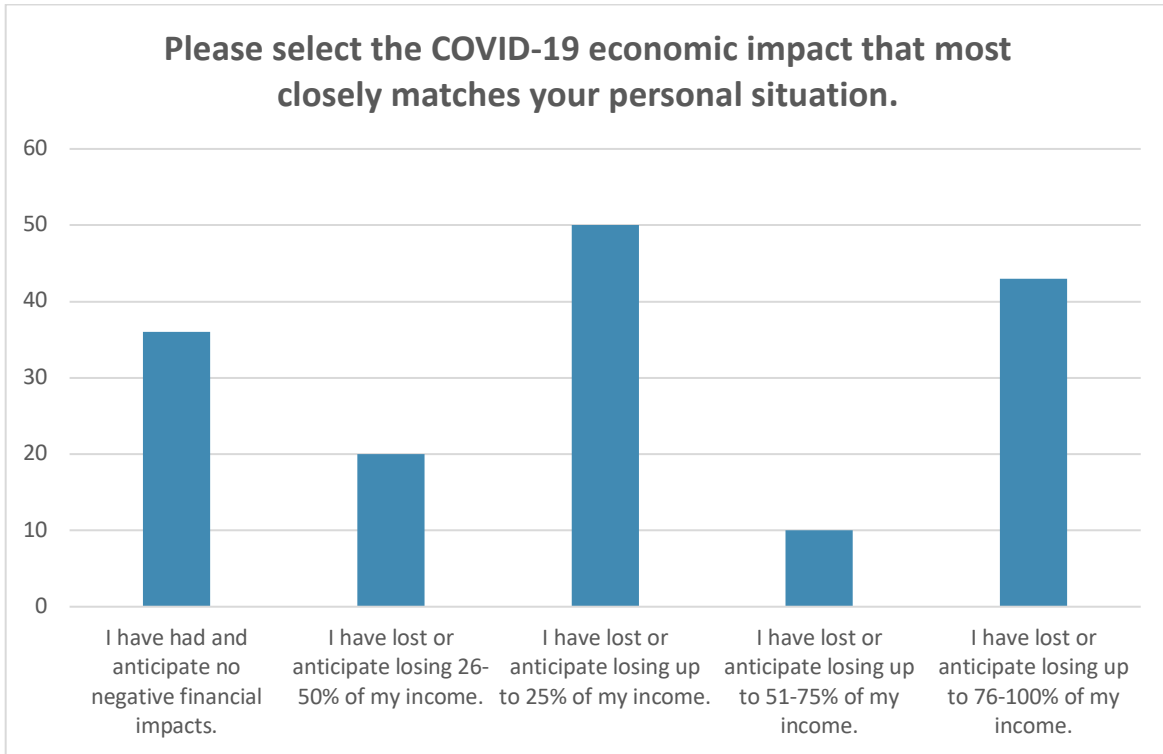
Notes on Total:

Responders were allowed to choose multiple scenarios; therefore, total is >159.

Percentages (of 159)

- I earned income from my creative work: 53%
- I was self-employed: 44%
- I ran my own business: 25%
- I had a full-time job: 18%
- I had multiple part-time gigs: 14%
- I worked in the service industry: 13%
- I had a part-time job: 13%
- I had a full-time job and one or more part-time jobs: 10%

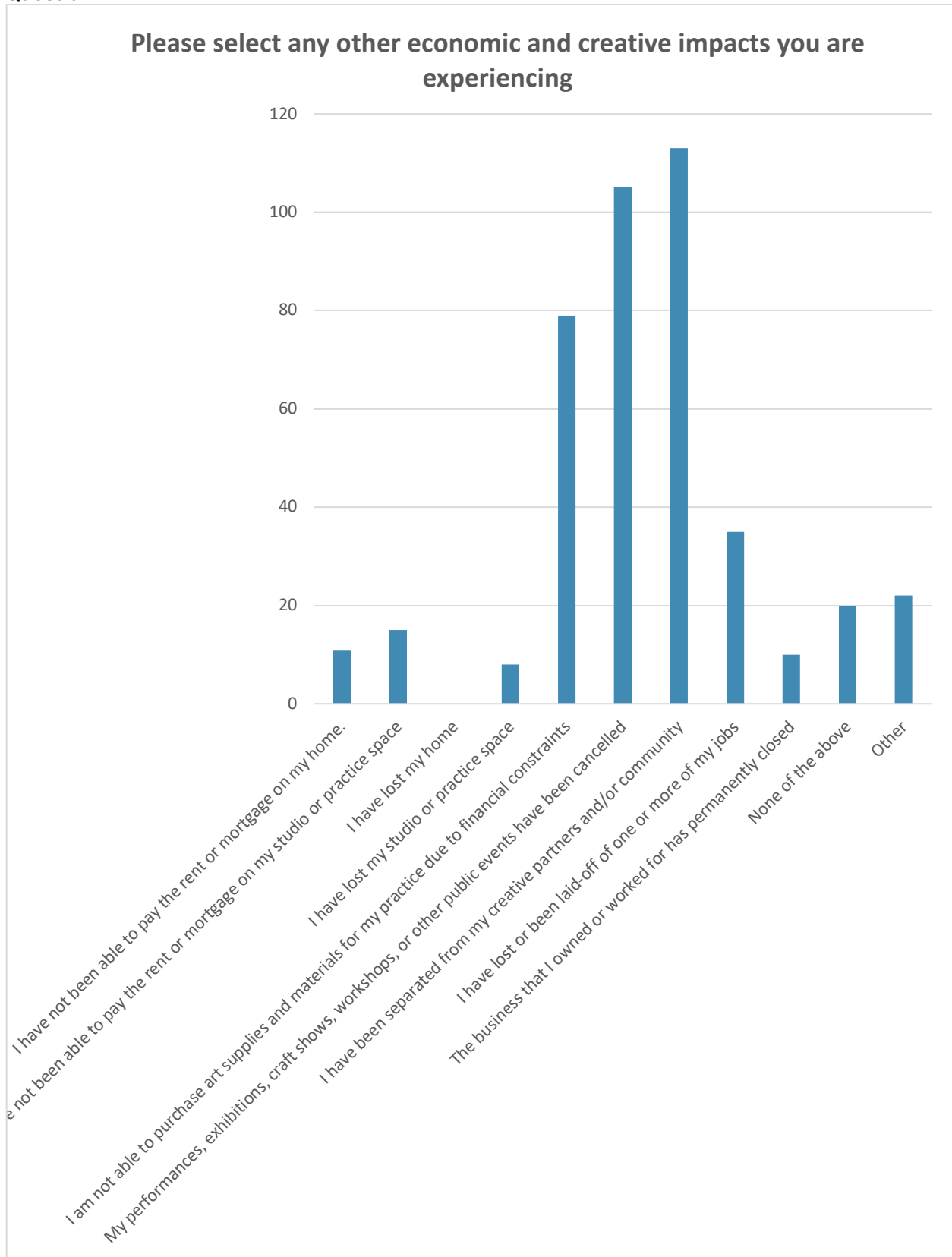
Question 3



Percentages (of 159)

- I have had and anticipate no negative financial impacts: 23%
- I have lost or anticipate losing 26-50% of my income: 13%
- I have lost or anticipate losing up to 25% of my income: 31%
- I have lost or anticipate losing up to 51-75% of my income: 6%
- I have lost or anticipate losing up to 76-100% of my income: 27%

Question 4



Notes on Total:

Responders were allowed to choose multiple impacts; therefore, total is >159.

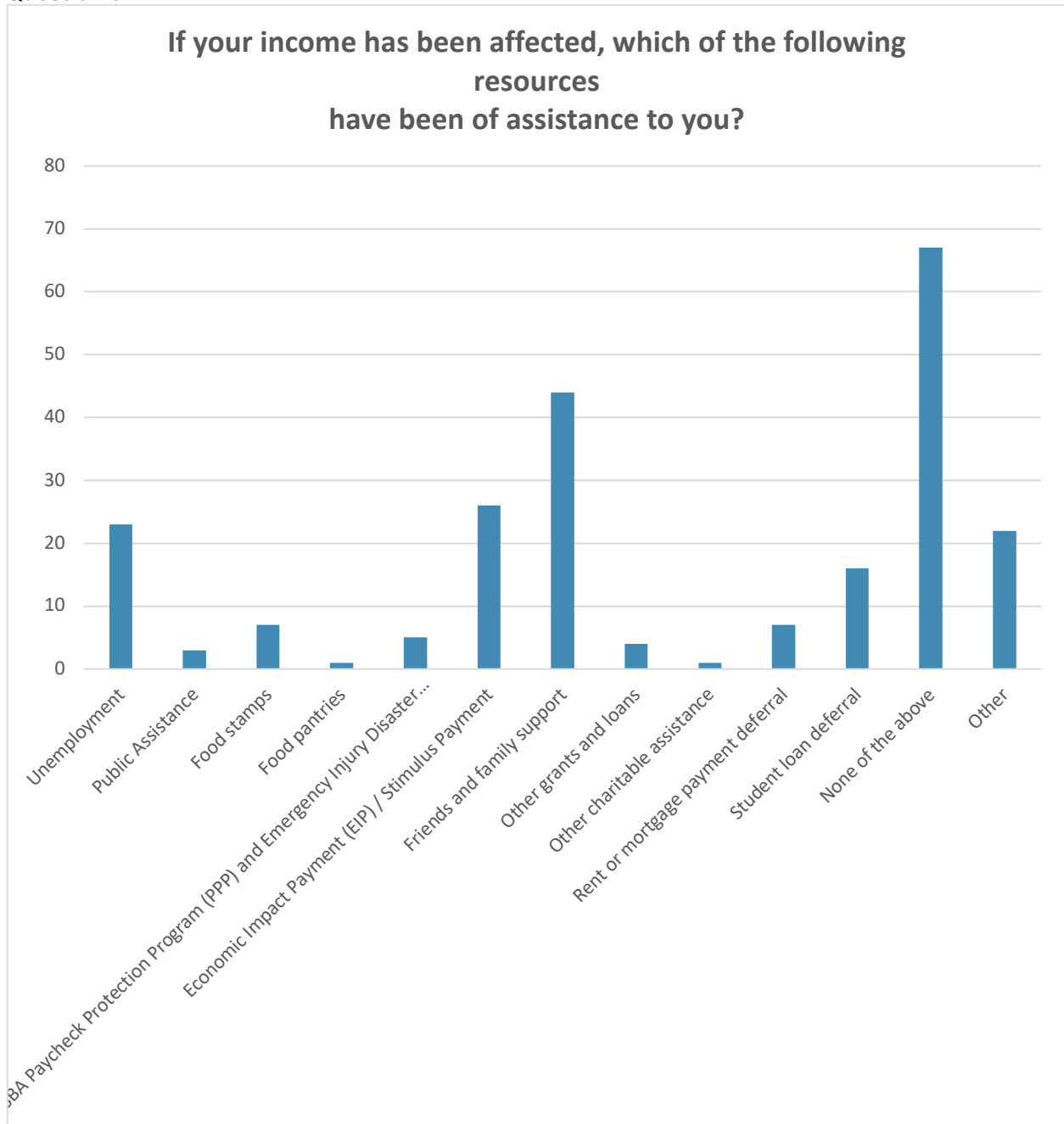
Percentages (of 159)

- I have not been able to pay the rent or mortgage on my home: 7%
- I have not been able to pay the rent or mortgage on my studio or practice space: 9%
- I have lost my home: 0%
- I have lost my studio or practice space: 5%
- I am not able to purchase art supplies and materials for my practice due to financial constraints: 50%
- My performances, exhibitions, craft shows, workshops, or other public events have been cancelled: 66%
- I have been separated from my creative partners and/or community: 71%
- I have lost or been laid-off of one or more of my jobs: 22%
- The business that I owned or worked for has permanently closed: 6%
- None of the above: 13%
- Other: 14%

Other Responses:

all work venues temporarily closed
Art Workshops that I was scheduled to teach have been cancelled at this time
Fortunately my husband has been able to cover my portion of rent, but I have not be able to contribute anything to the household financially
Have had no time to work creatively
I have been receiving unemployment benefits and actually have more time for art than I did before
I have not been able to pay down debts and my partner has had to shoulder these burdens
I have not being able to sell any of my t-shirts and designs, beacuse events have been cancelled
I started making face masks at home
I was an Instacart shopper but due to pre-existing conditions I would be at risk of complication from COVID so I'm well screwed without an income I can earn from home
Lost some piano students
My business has been temporarily closed since March 20, 2020
My exhibition has been postponed, thus income will fall into next year
Podcast listening worldwide has taken a huge hit in listenership since travel is at an all time low, A vast majority of listeners do so while commuting
status of events in limbo and fundraising at a standstill, paying half rent on home
The charities we serve have lost the quilts they depend on for abused children, cancer victims, and those needing comfort at the end of their life
Unable to do arts writing due to cancellations
Unable to pay some bills
I am so busy with my part time jobs (business manager) that I have no time to do any creative work
I may be unable to travel to promote a new book coming out in this next year -- all unknown for now, of course
maintenance on my studio
SEP ira tanking presently

Question 5



Notes on Total:

Responders were allowed to choose multiple impacts; therefore, total is >159.

Percentages (of 159)

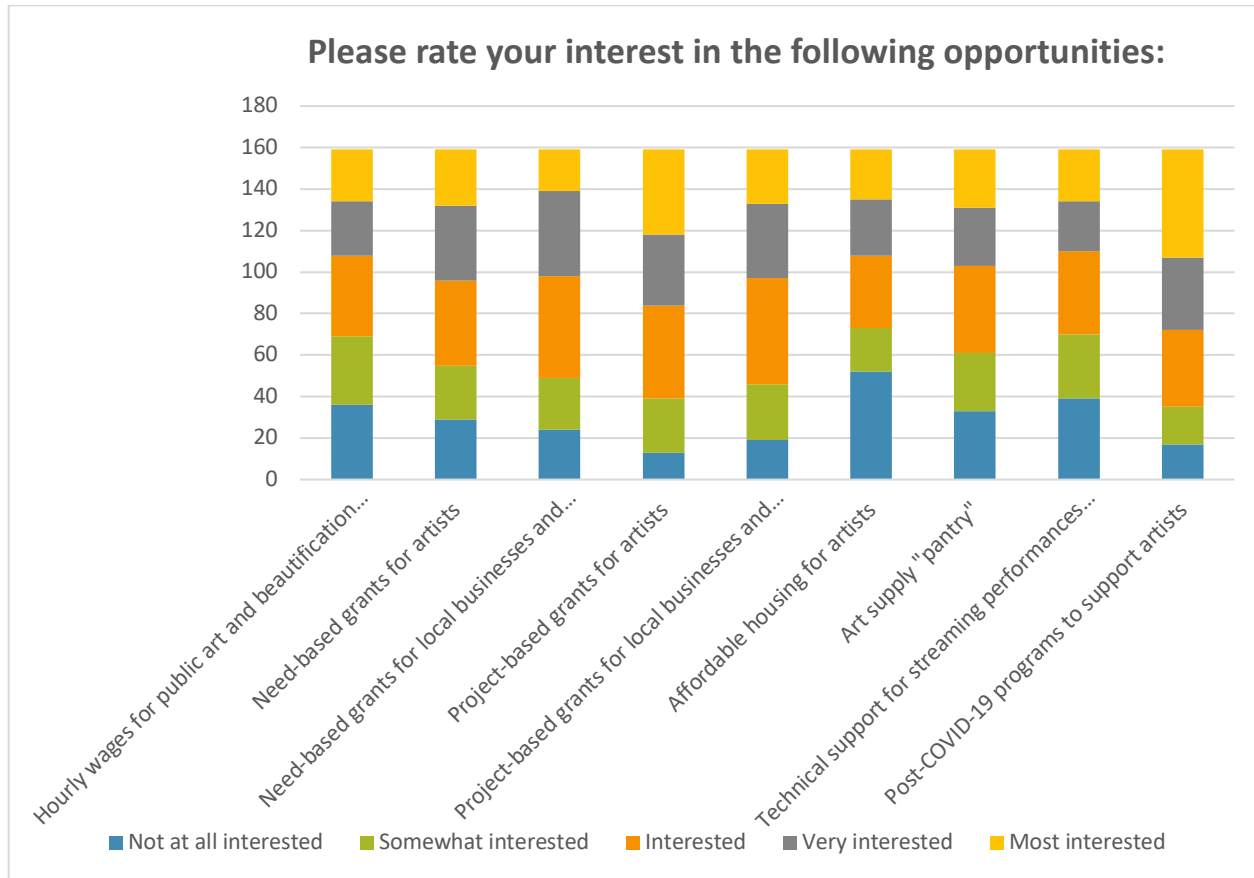
- Unemployment: 14%
- Public Assistance: 2%
- Food stamps: 4%
- Food pantries: 1%
- SBA Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) and Emergency Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL): 3%
- Economic Impact Payment (EIP) / Stimulus Payment: 16%
- Friends and family support 28%

Other grants and loans: 3%
 Other charitable assistance: 1%
 Rent or mortgage payment deferral: 4%
 Student loan deferral: 10%
 None of the above: 42%
 Other: 14%

Other Responses:

and a PPP loan and have not received anything yet.
Applies for most recieved none.
artist grants
credit cards and insurance payments. Georgia Power also offers deferred pmts.
Doubling my efforts to sell my art
regular email contact with other artists
I receive retirement income
Income not affected
Unemployment is a "theoretical" assistance
Disability
SBA CARES
nothing else yet
Nuci Space sent out \$400
Nucis Space
given the runaround I've been given being a "self-employed/independent contractor." Fingers crossed
I checked unemployment as helping although I have been unemployed and filed for 4+ weeks and have not received a payment even though I have been approved
I have applied for SBA PPP
I have applied for unemployment
if it ever goes through. Personally I don't believe I'll receive any money until June or so
Mercy Health Center
My bank has offered deferred payments on loans
My full time time job was able to receive PPP money.

Question 6



Percentages (of 159)

	Not at all interested	Somewhat interested	Interested	Very interested	Most interested
Hourly wages for public art and beautification projects	23%	21%	25%	16%	16%
Need-based grants for artists	18%	16%	26%	23%	17%
Need-based grants for local businesses and organizations that support artists	15%	16%	31%	26%	13%
Project-based grants for artists	8%	16%	28%	21%	26%
Project-based grants for local businesses and organizations that support artists	12%	17%	32%	23%	16%
Affordable housing for artists	33%	13%	22%	17%	15%
Art supply "pantry"	21%	18%	26%	18%	18%
Technical support for streaming performances and/or workshops	25%	19%	25%	15%	16%
Post-COVID-19 programs to support artists	11%	11%	23%	22%	33%

Question 7

Note: This question was optional.

QUESTION: To help further understanding, please share your story about being an artist in Athens before and after the onset of COVID-19 related impacts.
Things were looking up—my business was gaining traction, but now we're down to about 20% of our usual weekly sales. It's painful to see the small savings we had wiped away just to pay rent.
I was a comedian, pet sitter, caregiver, artist, among other things. All my sources of income dried up.
I haven't felt much difference. I didn't have a lot of sales before. Not sure if I'm being affected. Shipping of supplies has been slowed.
I have had a few shows cancelled and have had recording interrupted, but I have really been fortunate because I don't rely on music/art as my sole income - I have other sources of money that have continued - so far.
My artwork sometimes involves close interaction with the customer (airbrush body painting, consultant/meetings about other paint jobs)
I have lived in Athens almost 20 years and love it more than anything. The community of artists and creatives that makes up my social network astonishes and inspires me, especially as the townie music scene grows more diverse as well as diversely talented with age and experience. Athens has always been an extremely difficult town to make a living wage in for artists, but the rising rents of the past few years have been a horrific burden on myself and all other creatives in this town who have lived here due to the low cost of rent and high population of other like minded poor artists and collaborators. The rent crisis this year is already an artistic crisis for this town, and COVID has been a body blow to an already suffering community. Myself and other non-wealth seeking creatives have already spent all of 2020 discussing things such as moving to NYC and LA because the cost of living in Athens and comparative wages and creative opportunities are becoming horribly out of whack, but now we're all simply trapped, broke, and frightened of what the future in Athens means for all people of low income, artist or not.
My band was just getting more frequent gigs, and now we have gone back to what feels like nothing. We also had to halt our recording process due to COVID-19 complications, which has slowed our progress a great deal.
I create works both individually and with others...the shutdown impacted the creative process by closing off those partnerships.
I am a costume designer and seamstress, and I worked for a bridal studio that closed. I have more time for at home projects but far less income and no more savings! I have resorted to making fabric masks for friends and have asked for a small donation in return
I worked at the Georgia Theatre, Played in the band Shehehe and taught Yoga. All of which I cant do right now.
I used The Lyndon House painting studio 3-4 days a week pre-Covid. I miss the space, the people, and my progress since it's been closed.
I work part-time at the Lyndon House Arts Center and usually teach part-time at the Lamar Dodd School of Art (I did not have a class this semester as enrollment was down and I do not anticipate getting hired for summer or fall). I think the next few semesters will be hard for adjuncts. I am working from home for the Lyndon House Arts Center and am in charge of outreach and communications so I've had plenty to do maintaining the social media accounts and new online programming. I work 20 hours a week for the Arts Center and 6 of those hours I am making masks for the government employees. I am an artist and was gearing up for a summer exhibition in Greenville, SC with Tiger Strikes Asteroid. I was to install in May and though the show has not been formally canceled I am sure it will be rescheduled or postponed. I will miss out on the exhibition opportunity and a stipend. I also co-curated exhibitions for the Classic Center. This summer exhibition series has been postponed to at least July 1- I will only be paid once this year instead of twice. To supplement my income I rented out an Airbnb space and I no longer do that. I have canceled and refunded all reservations through July. I have lost over 50% of my income.
I create all different kinds of art, music, 2d, 3d, and performance based art, most of which I sell online or at expos, conventions, markets, and gigs. I also organize events in the community and I had just begun working on an event project with the local Georgia Square Mall to help artist with an opportunity

<p>to get their works seen in public spaces. Everything I had planned for the whole year has been canceled. Even if the lockdown is lifted I will not be able to plan public events in good conscious until we have widespread testing. Everything I do has now been moved to exclusively online content and sales of merch from my website. I am still producing art and have begun learning methods of livestreaming performances... it's a long learning process and then I can put to use what I figure out. So my plan greatly revolves around moving my performance art online, and physical art into an online store... which is alot to set up and maintain myself since I can't afford to have anyone doing it for me. I also have to maintain many social media platforms at once in the effort to promote my projects since there is no other way to promote at real life events.</p>
<p>I had shifted my employment to part time in agreement with my employer, and since COVID, I have been able to work only a few hours a week from home. The rest of my time I have been spending working on my personal artwork, which has been highly fulfilling. Having an unemployment check come in every week keeps me from being worried about rent or groceries, and we intend to use our stimulus money to help out others in more dire need.</p>
<p>I have for years worked modestly with a minimum of support from any sort of local community. This is probably due in part to my own nature, and not a reflection on the Athens arts community generally speaking. However, during the pandemic I have in all honesty felt more support and encouragement from colleagues in other parts of the US and throughout Europe than anything locally.</p>
<p>Prior to COVID-19 I had money, but no time. Now I have time, but no money.</p>
<p>Being an Artist in Athens was a great experience and continues to be so even during COVID. It has DEFINITELY been difficult being isolated and unable to attend exhibitions I was involved in.</p>
<p>Muralist working with the schools preparing to work at Barrow prior to the shut down. The project ended due to the virus. I also made it to the second round of a call for public art which has been delayed until further notice. As far as I know I'm still in the running.</p>
<p>Was planning to do two murals on the east side with grants from various orgs. I created a modified version but may have to delay this opportunity as well.</p>
<p>I have been a painter for many years. The primary impetus has never been about money, but of course, you need to have some income to support yourself. Even in the "good" times, its been a struggle. So you carry on and do the best you can, whatever life gives you. What this period has given me personally is more creative uninterrupted time. We've all had to slow down. I think most artists of any discipline can use this time to go inward and reflect about their work in a more contemplative way. We might see deeper, more contemplative work coming out of this crisis. Then when the crisis is over (hopefully!) this work, which will have had some time to mature, should have its time to be shared with the community.</p>
<p>As a tattoo artist, we rely almost 100% on foot traffic into a brick and mortar studio and close contact with customers in order to do our jobs effectively and safely. COVID-19 has wiped out all possibilities for earning a living doing tattoos and has thrustus us to the front lines of "Re-opening" amidst the mixed messages between local and state government officials and the scientific community around the virus. We are left confused and scared, but without a choice except to do what we must to stay afloat. - [name redacted]</p>
<p>Our business was running smoothly and had great support from our community and clients. We have received no help besides the \$1,000 check from the county at the beginning of all of this. We have had no income for us or our artists during this. We are financially hurting and scared of losing our business.</p>
<p>Because I planned well for my retirement as an educator, I am secure financially. The biggest impact of lock-down is lack of direct contact with my art tribe. We are on FB but missing museum and gallery gatherings or just a coffee with other creatives has been hard. In this 6th week of confinement I am longing for travel experiences outside of Athens. Hungry to look at art that is present not just in my studio or on a computer screen.</p>
<p>Before Covid, I had a schedule and events planned to produce and show my work. Now, I've had to pick up as many non art work hours to make sure I can afford rent and support family/loved ones. I haven't produced art in a month.</p>
<p>I lost 100% of my income due to covid-19. It's just really hard to buy, make, or appreciate art when you, your family, and your peers don't know how to pay for their essential needs. I have been separated</p>

from my loved ones, my community, my job, my life. Covid-19 impacted my life by changing it in almost every way overnight. I'm not alone in this either.
There are many online opportunities I would like to participate in, but the scramble for resources to pay our employees has doubled the time I have to devote to my job. I'm also feeling depressed and anxious, which never helps my creative output.
Most of my income is derived from selling patterns and traveling to lecture and teach, rather than selling my art. While I am still selling some patterns directly to consumers, most of them are sold to distributors, who sell on to shops, almost all of which are now shuttered. In addition, recently, as my visibility in my field has increased, I had booked a large number of workshops for groups, all of which have had to be cancelled.
Volleyball
I mainly work box office and house management for events, but I also teach theatre. Athens venues have hosted many performing arts events until mid-March, nothing since. A summer theatre camp I was booked for has also been cancelled.
I had artwork for sell at the shop I worked at and I was able to afford supplies to make those pieces. The supplies I order are no longer available, therefor I have used the last of my supplies for the type of product I make. no one wants to spend money on art right now and my depression which has been worsened by this entire experience has kept me from making alternative works of art to sell.
My primary work is as a graphic designer for UGA, I co-run a side business building and maintaining websites, and I paint oil paintings on commission (though I would do more non-commission work if I had time).
I was creating before and I have been creating during COVID-19. Should have a good body of work when this is all over..
I'm a retired business executive. Playing with clay is my hobby, and sometimes generates income. I have been supplementing my retirement income with pet/house sitting. My clients also encourage me to play with clay while sitting their pets and houses. This income has ended. All my clients have cancelled upcoming travel. I'm also not able to obtain clay, and my pottery studio is closed. I don't mind being house bound, but I've just about run out of clay, and therefore my source of creative relief.
Some leather projects I have created have been very successful and my supplemental income has been satisfactory, but not sustaining. Most of my sales have been at LHAC, OCAF and other shops in the area. In recent years I have been part of the support structure in several art organizations doing treasury and organizational work. My leatherwork time is getting a boost due to a recent move to a smaller home closer to Athens and I have given up membership in several organizations so I can concentrate on my creative work and continue my behind the scenes volunteer work. Unlike a lot of people, I consider the "stay at home" policy as a sort of vacation with no responsibilities or expectations. I have organized and consolidated my studio and home to be ready for the "coming out" of our country.
I am fortunate to have a full-time job that I can perform from a home office. I have been using income from it to float the production and performance of music. The performance endeavors are completely halted, and rehearsal, writing & production require adapting to virtual collaboration.
I had several concerts with orchestras and my tango group. Everything is cancelled , and the yearly international tour in the fall is looking unlikely. If my husband was to be laid off in the future we would not be able to afford rent.
all gigs cancelled. there went my income
I moved to Athens in January. I moved after marrying my husband who is a TA at UGA. I landed a job about two weeks before all this madness kicked in, and just as we began to establish a routine. The biggest setback I've had is a loss of community. I don't know other artists, and as my practice begins to suffer, I don't have a community of people to turn to (let alone the opportunity to discover and connect with fellow creatives).
I was selling my work on a regular basis. Not selling any work now.
I am involved in several large community music groups, a community opera company, and some theatre productions, all of which have had their performances and rehearsals canceled. Everyone misses each other terribly; also, we miss making a difference to the audiences and congregations, lifting their spirit with our art. I've also missed out on a few playing gigs that were canceled. Folks are

<p>trying to make "virtual choirs"/"virtual ensembles" and the like, but it's rather difficult. I can tell the members of the groups (and I) are still in a bit of shock--still processing the loss of expression and the drastic change in daily life.</p>
<p>Before COVID-19, I had participated in three shows and taught in person workshops in November, December, January and February, and early March, all of which brought in income. In addition, I was receiving income from mentoring.</p> <p>When COVID-19 hit Athens, I canceled all my upcoming events. My calendar was filled with several events and classes including a filled workshop scheduled for March 29th and 30th, as well as the Atlanta Dogwood Festival April 17th, 18th and 19th. (They canceled, although I would not have participated given the risks). In addition, I was being paid to mentor a student several times a month. One of my sculptures was accepted into Southworks at OCAF, it now an online show. I was also in the process of scheduling two other creative workshops in May. The free class I was teaching in April for OLLI was also canceled.</p>
<p>I could scrape out a living from my band and restaurant work and now those are GONE. Still have some savings but not sure how long that will last. [identification redacted]</p>
<p>I'm not</p>
<p>Because I rely on the bulk of my income from adjunct teaching and my husband has a full time job with benefits from the university, we've been able to navigate this time better than most.</p>
<p>Before COVID-19, my husband and I had very busy performance schedules as professional musicians, anticipating weddings and concerts in Athens, Atlanta and South Carolina. Now all of our performing commitments have been either cancelled or postponed, and we are not receiving any of the income we counted on from those performing engagements. Thankfully, we also teach private lessons, and many of our students have agreed to online teaching. I have retained all but one student, but my husband has lost about 1/3 of his. We are doing all right for now, but summer is coming, and many students take summer off or reduce their number of lessons over the summer.</p>
<p>The pandemic effected me right as I was in a transitional period. I was supposed to be teaching 2 courses at UGA that were cancelled this semester. As a back-up, I worked some part-time work through February with the anticipation that I had 2 major exhibitions in the spring with honorariums and awards - both were postponed for many months (even so, before they were postponed I was dealing with stressful circumstances as I lost access to certain equipment needed to build some of the work). I also anticipated working on a large mural in early summer that would be atleast a third to half of my yearly income, but it has been post-poned with the likelihood of cancelation. As a back up, I have a conservation project to work on, but have not been able to start due to not having access to purchase the proper materials due to shut downs. I also have had small commission drawings I have been creating for pocket money but have halted those due to issues with shipping and constantly changing my priorities as projects and exhibitions kept getting shifted. As a last ditch effort, I have tried to sell my work for half price and have sold 1 painting that was barely enough for groceries. As far as stimulus support, I seem to be one of those still without it and it is ambiguous as to why (but the IRS website won't show any information currently).</p>
<p>There is much more to this. Everything has been complicated by this. I am apprenticing at a tattoo shop as well and had the anticipation of being able to make money securely through this job by the end of the year prior to the pandemic, but now my training has been pushed back 2-3 months.</p>
<p>In summary, in 2020 I so far have an income of less than \$2000 for the year, and have had countless projects and opportunities pulled out from under me (when being an artist is already risky and insecure).</p>
<p>Since the pandemic I have more time to devote to my art. My loss of employment had nothing to do with the pandemic but rather the poor decision making of a corporate CEO. I won't say what company but it rhymes with EARTH FARE.</p>
<p>I am a part-time commercial artist (photographer), and use the supplemental income it provides to cover all my expenses and produce art for sale as well as provide pro bono services to non-profits. Before the pandemic I was actively producing and showing/selling work in Athens and planning</p>

workshop activities. All local art shows and venues are now shuttered, and events and workshops are on hold, cutting off most opportunities for me to continue. Fortunately my other family income has been stable, but all of my commercial art endeavors are on hold indefinitely and I may be forced to end my small business.
I used to teach, which was most satisfying to all, informative and fun, and now it's being missed by all.
I provide note cards and related art items to local and distant retail outlets. Since the "shelter-in-place" was activated, retailers are not ordering. Due to their financial constraints, other patrons are not ordering art.
I am an older woman (62) and retired from UGA at the end of December from a long-time staff position. My writing has never been a primary source of income -- usually not a source of income at all -- so I am in a fortunate position right now.
Before COVID-19, I was beginning starting to step into professional world as an artist. After and because of the onset of COVID-19, that has come to a halt.
As a photographer with limited access to the world around me, I have limited access to my subject matter. I am fortunate to be employed in education and can work for money from home.
I am creating more artwork, diverse experimentation in my field, but I fear there will be no market for me to exhibit and sell in the near future.
Other than being a practicing artist and facing a postponement of an exhibition that provides economic support, I curate projects locally that have been halted as a result of a crushing lack of business in the hospitality sector. This includes on project that is a residence that provides funds and housing to working artists.
I participated in public art projects, worked with art organizations and participated in art activities with other artist
I'm a fiction writer and playwright
We need more artists communities, opportunities, and supports for artists in Athens!
I relocated to Athens in Nov. to be in a community where my art would be relevant and to be around a like minded art community. This past 10th of March I had my first open studio workshop which was very well supported by my new community. My plans to teach, have art parties, secure a public studio and place items in Athens area retail locations are on hold. Currently I am offering free art classes in my awesome Green Acers neighborhood to keep my name circulating. (Folks must supply thier own materials, we meet in thier front lawn). I've also created a living sculpture in my front yard for folks to enjoy as they walk, as well as keep a video diary on accumulating works and ideas for my preformance arena.
I am a fiber artist. As such, I have been building my brand throughout the ACC community through exhibitions, workshops and craft shows. Before the CoVid-19 impact, I had several scheduled classroom workshops, art exhibitions and a growing clientele. Because of the close hands-on type of workshops that I conduct, I am not able to conduct these in the current pandemic situation. At this moment, my income has vanished as people are losing their employment and not making purchases for art. I understand. There are basics that come first. I sincerely hope that ramping up my online presence may have a positive impact on my ability to financially recover.
Luckily for me, the income I earn by doing art is "supplemental" income. I also work full-time in health care. So it has been an interesting couple of months for me. The biggest impact on me has been the fact that my two big spring art events (a children's book launch party, and a solo exhibition opening reception) were postponed/delayed/canceled. And I am very nervous and hesitant about committing to future dates this year, because I honestly just don't know when things will actually be open back and running again. Do I sign up for an event in September? Will things be "OK" by then? Also, what about November/December holiday markets? Will there be another peak later this year that will cause things to have to be shut down again? The biggest impact to my creative output has been trying to adjust my schedule to figure out how to work from home with the entire family there ALL THE TIME. I used to have "studio days" when everyone else had work/school, but now I don't, so the work/family/art balance is all thrown off, and I am having a hard time figuring it out. Add to that so much uncertainty in

the news about everything that is going on, and it has actually been rather hard for me to focus on completing tasks and creating deadlines for myself.
I feel that I am on my own as an artist.
We need more artists communities, opportunities, and supports for artists in Athens!
I perform and organize comedy, and as of 2020 I had finally bridged the gap from holding a steady job or working for other people doing odd jobs, etc., to making my ends meet from comedy alone (mostly teaching improv classes, but I was organizing an east coast stand up tour). I was making VERY little, but ENOUGH to get by, and I was starting to make more, so that was exciting. Not to mention I got to do what I loved to do. I have been trying to open a theater in town for 3 years or so, and I was beginning to look at more commercial spaces this spring. Everything is on standstill now (though I am producing livestreamed podcasts every week), and I am concerned about the prospect of being able to find that momentum I had built over many years to crest and start making a living. I'm looking into maybe applying to be a high school teacher (which was my late-life career plan), because the total lack of financial security is starting to wear on me, but I am also torn between pursuing my dream and dying happy knowing I tried (even if I fail) and spending all my time and energy "making a living" to be able to own property, get married, and be a financially-functioning citizen. This has been the conflict for years, just for the record; the COVID/financial crisis has only exacerbated things.
Before I had art fairs scheduled where I can make my expenses. Now I must rely on any online sales.
I am an active musician and aerial dancer. Because I have a FT job, I have not been affected financially much. I have however, been taken away from my primary community. Canopy is doing a great job with Zoom classes, but I miss my band and trapeze families so much.
I began participating in craft show events in November 2019 and I discovered that I loved it. I immediately began crafting a large inventory in preparation for holiday markets. I was thrilled to be accepted to two big local events. I designed a craft booth layout and began ordering the equipment in advance and it was not cheap. I had such a great time and met several artists who I still keep in contact with. I began developing new sewn and quilted items to round out my quilted acrylic painted artwork. I met many interesting and wonderful customers. Some of their statements touched me - unexpectedly - deeply. I found that it motivated me to stretch my skills further. Then COVID-19 appeared. Events began cancelling, which I expected. I am lucky that I have a full-time IT job at UGA and am now working even harder at home to perform my job. Some events are hopeful they will be able to reschedule. I fear that many the organizers and many artists will be unable to recover from the economic loss. I stopped crafting for 4 weeks and have only just now begun to create again. I started by making face masks for 20 family members and have kept making them. Finding a new balance is difficult, but I think that I am finally getting there.
I had community related workshops and classes cancelled, as well as private classes that I gave.
I work on mixing, mastering, recording audio for albums, commercials, voice over, podcasting for clients locally and all over the world, as well as have been a touring musician for 20 years
I am a photographer and graphic designer. My graphic design business has come to a stand still. I still have some projects for photography but that will end very soon.
I used to support and participate in many exhibits and receptions. Now all the exhibits, if they exist at all are online. Online exhibits are interesting but aren't the same as seeing a work up close. And the receptions were fun and helped compensate for the cost of submissions.
I am in a graduate program at UGA. Currently I am still a graduate assistant and will receive stipends through May, but have supplemental income from art sales and part-time service industry work. I have been more interested in ways to create a stronger art community through organizing projects and events directed towards visual artists, which is incredibly difficult now during the covid impacts.
I am a senior faculty member at UGA who hasn't been impacted directly
Too long to go onto
As an independent dancer, teacher, and choreographer, I have experienced the joyful energy of studio work with other dancer/choreographers and with students young and old. It is heartbreaking to see our vibrant dance studios shuttered. I long for Athens' empty dance studios to reopen, but the necessary stay at home orders should not be lifted until testing and a vaccine is widely available. Many teachers are zooming dance classes, but nothing can replace the in person dynamic of moving in the studio. I

<p>hope that dance will be included in whatever programs for restoration emerge from ACC after this crisis. A dance festival would be grand!</p>
<p>Im the owner of Aces and Eights tattoo. A shop in town thaylt has been in the community since 2004. March and April are tattoo shops peak season. The order to shut down from the ACC came on 3/19. I havent been to work since because its deemed unlawful. My local commercial property owner is demanding full rent. Applied for all 4 of the state/fed funding 1. UI 2. Eidl.3 eidl advance 4. Ppploan. Non of which i have heard back from. I dont know what the answer is, but i know my shop is ESSENTIAL to me and my family and my industry just like other fellow tattooes in this town.</p>
<p>I have been a tattoo artist in Athens for 11 years. I have a MFA from UGA. I opened my own tattoo studio four years ago and have experienced positive growth since. I have added two tattoo artists and an apprentice in the past year. We closed the doors on March 20,2020. As independent contractors we have been met with zero support from government financial assistance programs. I am facing an estimated financial loss of \$20,000.00.</p>
<p>i taught art history & painted</p>
<p>I am socially completely isolated despite being in a city with a fairly healthy art community. I could not afford studio space outside my home for instance and due to disability have a difficult time getting out and about in Athens itself. I instead conducted all of my business via the internet including my social support. Covid shut down all of my previous in-person socialization opportunities (shows, conventions, etc) and demand for my art dropped off a cliff despite doing well for about three years. I don't feel like I have time to spend on mental health because I feel I have to use every available second for trying to earn a few more pennies. I am completely disconnected from the Athens art community itself. I have enough familial and partner support that I won't end up homeless, but I'm not making good art or enough art since Covid hit. I lost three years of effort towards being independent of others. I'm disabled and cannot work most conventional jobs and my one other field (wildlife biology and museum exhibits fabrication) is not in demand or essential.</p>
<p>I'm in a holding pattern and don't know what my future will hold as an artist. It's the only avenue towards independence I have left.</p>
<p>Beyond not being able to perform myself, I run a DIY music venue and every one of our shows have been canceled. Athens feels like a very strange place without a show or exhibition happening virtually every night.</p>
<p>I am a part time artist who would sell creations for extra income. Usually my side art would bring 40 to 100 a month. Now zero. My main income was from rideshaee driving</p>
<p>We need more artists communities, opportunities, and supports for artists in Athens!</p>
<p>I am a tattooer. I have lost a month and a half of work, no income at all, with no real end in sight. We currently are refusing to open knowing we could be putting people at risk. I was denied unemployment and was waiting on an application for PUA benefits. But now that Kemp has stated that tattoo shops and the like can continue business, I will most likely not qualify for unemployment anymore.</p>
<p>I was working at a local art and frame shop, I was working on my art having free range of availability of making my art. I could pay for my rent at my apartment and buy the food I needed to before the COVID pandemic. I now do not have a job, I cannot work on my art as freely as I was doing because the resources are not there anymore, I cannot pay for my rent as well as I did, and I have to be more picky with the food I am getting from the stores now a days.</p>
<p>I am not a professional artist, but I am employed part-time as a graphic designer, and I have a small cake and cookie baking/decorating business. Neither has been affected by the quarantine. I take as many art classes as I can at Lyndon House, OCAF and through OLLI to learn technique and practice. I miss those classes terribly, especially being around other creatives.</p>
<p>I'm create digital media for my full time job but I'm primarily a podcast consultant and creator. I run my own business on the side to help others create, launch, and maintain their own shows. I also create my own show, Chapel Bell Curve, that has helped with life expenses over the last 3 years. Podcasts across the world have taken a hit during this time since more than 40% of listening is done during a commute. Our shows 4th season is in danger now before it even starts, though. Chapel Bell Curve is a show centered around UGA football and the experience that surrounds it. Without a football season, our show wouldn't exist and neither would the income it provides. I planned on taking less hours at work in the fall to focus more on school but that may not be an option without that additional podcast</p>

income and growth we expected. There's even a chance that my full time job(Non-profit) may be in danger as we enter a new fiscal year in July. Only time will tell.
I am retired and a serious hobbyist. I do not support myself with my art. So, many of the questions on this survey have no appropriate response alternative.
As a portrait photographer what directly effects me is the lack of locations for photoshoots and also curfew and contact rules limit associated support people such as MUA's and hair stylists.
I used to work and make money...now I don't. That's the gist of it. No special story here just hoping things get back to normal.
Before Covid I was able to live comfortably and pay for rent and food. Now that we are 5 weeks in I'm struggling to pay rent and buy food and struggling to find any other way of making money...
I'm been very fortunate to call Athens my home for 25 years. It's been my anchor as I travel for work and most importantly a place where I have honed my craft with community encouragement over the years. Losing the immediacy of live performance and sharing has been difficult and has strengthened my resolve to successfully navigate the landscape that emerges from this crisis.
I had an art exhibit, along with my music performance scheduled for April 18th. I had already sold two oil paintings in this series. Now I have several art supporters interested in viewing my paintings. As well, I had three music gigs cancel; one of which was a good paying college performance.
It has not affected me much. I miss live music venues but other than that, no big del.
Most disappointing is not being able to teach my art workshops to groups of people. Losing the income is, of course, disappointing. Not being able to interact with children and their families through these workshops is disappointing. Feels like a loss on several levels. Also am very interested is art expressing the current events and it's impact on our community.
While I consider myself lucky to not be financially affected by the pandemic, like many artists, I was already living at the financial edge before everything happened. I have struggle to find a way to help those who were more affected by me since I do not have the financial means to do so. If anyone has ideas on ways that artists can provide real, significant relief for those who are most affected I would be very interested to hear them!
Seeing images. Possible signs of other times and places.
Lyndon House closing hurt my ability for the public to see my work and here my lecture
My work provided 100% of my family's financial support prior to CoVid-19 impact. I am still receiving a trickle of orders and commissions, but my income is decreased by about 80%.
I do more than 50% of my painting at OCAF's "open studio." My production is way down be ause I no longer have access to this facility.
There has been no impact.
Before: production line of hand painted scarves being shipped and delivered to galleries. After: most galleries are closed and I haven't shipped the most recent work. I'm working up to posting photos of gifts for Mother's day with simple pricing to local groups. Long range, I'm using the time to revise and finish paintings, plein air and otherwise, and to organize files and take care of the yard and house since our helpers can't come any more. I wish I had more ability in the social media for business.
Can't get supplies
As a quilt maker and a fabric collector, I have continued to make charity quilt TOPS using my supplies vs the well-stocked Fiber Crafts Room at the Lyndon House. Many of the sewists in our community are also making masks for health care community. When we are able to return to regular duty, we will have access to the supplies and services necessary to complete the quilts and make deliveries. I don't see this as a fast process since we have few members with access to a long arm quilting machine (requiring a skilled operator).
Before the onset of COVID-19 I was selling my work at art festivals and through social media. I make a lot of commissioned pet portraits as well (they actually make up 50% of my business). Once all of this started, all of my shows were cancelled, I immediately lost 5 commissions, and have been having a very difficult time selling anything at this point. I am currently averaging \$150 a week selling art. Making and selling art used to support my bills, mortgage, supplies, and food. Now, things are looking bleak and unemployment doesn't look like it will come through for me.

I teach part-time at UGA and work as an assistant to support my arts practice. Although my job at the university has never been secure I have been able to maintain it for at least 4 years. I now worry that will not be available. My assistant gig pays very little.
My painting classes have been cancelled. I have been giving a few online critiques and suggestions. As a member of the Plein Air group, I miss the companionship of the other artists.
29-year resident, musician, visual artist, and cultural event organizer, hi y'all it's [identification redacted]

Question 8

Note: This question was optional.

Please share any thoughts or suggestions you have about supporting artists in Athens during this time or any time.
It would be very helpful if we could get local loans or rent deferrals / decreases. We want all our micro businesses to be here on the other side of this!
Food support, financial support, online art auctions
So many of us work service industry jobs (I used to) I would love to see jobs that improve the basic infrastructure of life here in Athens - from picking up trash, removing invasive species, building platforms or trail maintenance at Sandy Creek and other parks, any part time, reliable, flexible work that artist can rely on that is actually rewarding (in that it is improving our local way of life). Having reliable work is one part of the puzzle of building a sustainable artist life. The other is healthcare and maybe thats too large to start a conversation on here - but it is another key to longevity of the arts community.
I am a jeweler and a gardener. I am able to garden fortunately. We also have supplemental income for now in our home. We are fortunate as of now. Thank you for asking!
The only idea I have I'm afraid is direct assistance to poor artist.
I am stable financially, but there are so many local artists and musicians that are NOT and they, along with service industry workers, need the support of their community.
I do not have a solution
Grants for creative work could be cool, also any job that is remote could help. I have only ever worked with the public and am not really sure how to move forward finding a job. It could be something new just as long as its something i can do from home. i would say a resource on how to find a job would be great. I would love to work for a good local Athens company or even the city .
Your survey mentioned several that appealed to me.
I appreciate the seed grants supporting artists making work during this time. I'm interested in the salaried work opportunities during recovery. Artists need to be paid in cash not vouchers. We need more art-based, creative, full time, insured, salaried jobs. Affordable heath care for part time workers and the self employed. I think rent and mortgage deferment would help a lot of people as well as, on a national level, student loan forgiveness. Also access to the internet for all of Athens- we need to bring back the Cloud.
I'm sure everyone has noticed that as soon as lockdown was enacted across our country and the world the artists in the community jumped immediately to performing and creating for the masses of people stuck at home on their computers... of course again artists are performing for free and for the "exposure"... luckily many artist will get tips and friends will send them money in support or buy merch off of them... so more people supporting these working artist is needed, who will be stuck in a "lockdown" type situation much longer than most businesses who are itching to get started.
A universal basic income would do wonders to improve the quality of life of artists and people with lower incomes.
I think any resources helping Athens artists build connections with artists, art spaces, and opportunities outside of Athens would be great. Athens is often extremely Athens-centric, but many of our artists could thrive more from finding where their art is better appreciated and where opportunities for sales are greater, to say nothing of bringing more attention to Athens as an arts oriented city.
Have always needed affordable housing and affordable good food for artists and those who are employed in art related occupations.

I would love to try and be a part of doing some "at home" exhibits in some manor. WOUld be neat to support each other in this time.
Everyone is suffering. Artists are not singled out here. All programs that give all people assistance with basic needs such as food, housing, etc. will benefit artists. In any time, public art funding is important as it enriches our community. Athens has done a great job with this recently! Maybe Lyndon House or another venue could do an exhibition about work done in the covid period.
Rent and tax relief for artist-based rental units, stimulus \$ to pay for bills and other necessities, Art supply pantry, etc.
I believe that small local businesses that were forced to close and have no source of income should be the first ones that are helped.
It would be great to have an online directory of all the artists that call Athens home. Only recently moved here, I am still trying to make connections to other artists.
I am grateful that Athens city leaders had the common sense to close down our city early. This is the kind of leadership I hoped for when I relocated to Athens. And most people are sticking with it so I am also proud of the respect folks are giving to this pandemic.
I was working as an art educator for the Leisure Services. Now that all classes are closed, the contracts have been cancelled. Art classes were an essential part of the cultural center misión, but most of the art educators were employed on \$15 dollar an hour without any benefit. The income from our art is usually unstable (sales, grants, etc.) Usually our more predictable income comes from regular teaching jobs. The county would be most helpful by hiring artists as employees with benefits. The coronavirus crisis just highlights the fragility of the system.
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If you can support them, do it now. Even if they can't create or provide a good in return right now, or ever. It's hard out here.
Athens needs more public art opportunities available to a wider group of artists - I would love to see more respect for street art and graffiti art, like the Living Walls project in Atlanta
I have five cats.
Like all as needed part-time or self-employed individuals, there is no financial safety net in place when all work suddenly stops. Some of the \$700 billion spent on the military could be used to support low-income artists without threatening national security.
More online galleries to promote and sell local artists art.
Could we share supplies, support each other via online or live classes and demonstrations?
My artistic experience is different than others in the Athens art community. Other artists completed college degrees in their artistic field and had expectations of making a living doing what they loved. This expectation is not always realized and subject to many fickle factors. Successful artists, like all other "business people", need to build a client base first by having a marketable product. A good business background is as important to an artists success as the art they produce. Small business help has become available and artists should be qualified on the merits of their business on the same level as other businesses. Many artists, in a prosperous economy, are lax on the business end and don't prepare for difficult economical conditions like we are all facing. Holding back several months of monthly expenses is a basis of survival for any business and living on the edge is not the responsibility of the government or any other citizen. Cutting back on business expenses is necessary if sales drop. My experience on the business end (voluntary) of LHAC and OCAF has made it clear many artists sometimes don't even cash their commission checks and inventory tracking is unheard of in their business model. I have tried to help, creating a lot of extra work for me, but if these artists are expecting a bailout, I feel it should not be monetary, but informational. Businesses will fail as a result of this terrible pandemic, many as a result of their own internal shortcomings. Cutting back to a part time status or reevaluation of their whole business may allow some artists to succeed. Sale venues are

subject to the same trickle down stresses. Their success or failure depends on a good business structure as well as the artists whose art they sell in their shops. May sound like tough love, but charity usually comes from prosperity and personal responsibility is just that - personal and responsible.
We have good things going. I especially enjoyed Athens in Harmony, culturally.
We should encourage support for online collaborations. Some of us are working on ways of staying active and putting quality material out , within the limits of social distancing.
buy our music online
I think if artists could be involved in some sort of online art fairs, beautification jobs painting murals, or other projects to show how much we give to the community, including artistic masks for people to wear right now, would be a positive impact for the community.
Folks need money, of course; they also need an outlet of expression, to be seen and heard.
Grants or supplemental income would be helpful.
It's too early to say with the shelter in place situation. Some new ways to "perform " will be looked into I imagine. But if everyone is going broke at the same time , any kind of earning through that can get scarce quickly.
It needed
I would absolutely love to see a music component to Leisure Services. Through them, we have thriving programs for visual arts, theater and dance, but we do not have a music program. I'd like to see music teachers and musicians being hired through the county and a full program fleshed out. This could be a wonderful opportunity for collaboration with the other arts departments.
No idea, really. I wish I knew. I have been hurt so badly financially this year. And my schedules that I have to curate so carefully so my projects and exhibitions don't overlap have been completely flipped and uncertain making even the process of creating work uncertain because I don't know what I am making or when it needs to be completed and how much money I can comfortably put into each project.
So much anxiety.
It is my opinion that the best support an artist can receive is for some one to purchase or praise their work. I'm not saying that art that doesn't sell is of no value. During his brief life Vincent Van Gogh made no money from his art. I don't think anyone will argue the value, cultural not merely monetary, of his work. As far as grants and such go I feel if it's too easy to make art the results are works that reflect little more than an artist's lack of discipline and vision. If an artist is truly possessed by an artistic vision they are going to articulate that vision no matter what. As evidence I submit the example of Pablo Picasso. In the early 20th century Picasso was living penniless in Paris and burning his sketches to stay warm. Yet, somehow that poor little Spaniard turned the art world upside down.
I think any help artists could receive to transition their activities to a digital environment (for teaching, sharing, exhibiting work) could be very valuable. I also like the concept of offering small grants for more public art projects that can safely be done during or after the stay at home orders are lifted.
maybe a special performance online or an auction of artwork to benefit artists.
The visual arts bring joy, contentment, inspiration and a "balm" to the soul, wherever it may be seen, a museum, public spaces or in someone's home; a joyful visual voice!
I would love to see programs for writers, such as the "Poetry on the Bus" or "Poetry Around Town" type programs that cities like Winston-Salem and Durham offer. I think Athens provides much more support, in general, for musical and visual artists than others in the arts.
How to reach the public about your business or classes to help how to start your business and keep it going. Laws and regulation in regards to taxes and grants
I think supporting artists in Athens during a time like this would be a great thing to do. Everyone is struggling so much right now, so coming together to help each other would be wonderful.
I do hope the community can figuratively come together and thrive in new and different ways during our new and changing world.
An Arts Alliance to direct artists to project opportunities that provides funding, materials, work space and more

Donate food or supplies
Funding for online shows, is one alternative.
Online studio visits, or talks. We need more online artist's communications these days!
Have public art in parks, public balloon bomb community paintings (healthily creative aggression valve), drive in movies, 10' squares cordoned off in parks for flash mob dance, neighborhood association porch parties - similar to Porchfest, neighborhood association parades (limit 10 participants per parade per weekend, to encourage folks to be outside and be silly. more than happy to help - [name redacted])
I happen to be a volunteer member of ACAC (Athens Cultural Affairs Commission). In that capacity, we are a source of opportunities for Athens and Athens-area artists and are diligent in our ability to continue support for artists. As a member, I am fully committed to fulfilling our Master Plan, SPLOST projects and community grants.
Don't forget - People still need art!! And they need YOU to make it for them!
I think that creating a culture that considers art to be as important and necessary to life as science or religion would help communities to be more caring and sensitive. I think that such a culture would also create more appreciation of various points of view and a love for and appreciation of beauty.
Online studio visits, or talks. We need more online artist's communications these days!
Perhaps a slight bias here, but most talk of "art" in town seems to revolve largely around visual art and maybe some mention of music. Performance art, such as comedy, has been kind of a black sheep, and I feel like there are different standards applied to it. Here's another brief story. I used to organize a comedy house show (it was very popular), and ACC code enforcement did nothing short of strong-arming me into shutting down the show even though I was being a good neighbor, knew and followed city code, and was serving a real need in the community. We were served a non-compliance notice for signage on lampposts (one of my collaborators didn't realize you couldn't post there), and the notice said we had 2 days to comply or face up to \$1000 in fines and/or jail time. Needless to say I wanted to comply but could not get in touch with the code officer to figure out how to stop being a "comedy club", which we were not (me and said collaborate left 4+ messages over two days). Finally, on day 3, 7:30am, she calls me to let me know the signs are down but that they could have fined us \$1000 for EACH sign they found, and they found about 100, so they could have fined us \$100,000 -- she just wanted to let us know this. She was also inquiring with our landlord who/how many people lived in the house, given that it was a "single-family" residence. Surprise surprise, in Athens, GA, a poor artist lives with 3 people to cover rent. Thankfully the other two were a couple so we claimed they were married by common law (they were a year shy), otherwise we feared one of us (probably me) being evicted. Stop and think about that for a second. I was making art in this town, serving a real community of people doing what I loved for no profit, and I look outside my window to see code enforcement and tax assessor vehicles stopping daily to surveil the property, am paranoid of being evicted from my home, and am worried about being charged copious amounts of money I don't have (or god forbid being put in jail -- though that would have been pretty rock n' roll, no?). That is a lot of psychological stress, if not trauma. I have had some health issues since then, probably related to many stresses (my heart is not good... and I'm 30 years old). So, at the very least, I'd recommend not putting artists through trauma, not intimidating them, and giving them space to create things that the community desires. Hell, I'd even say work WITH them. Meanwhile frat parties down the street are doing the same thing we were, or bands are playing at house shows doing the same thing and I've never heard of someone going through something similar. I know this is supposed to be anonymous, but given that this is the first time I've ever been asked about my experience in a qualitative way, I figured the asker might actually want to help artists and might be able to help prevent issues like this in the future. My name and email are [name redacted], if you'd like more information or thoughts on the matter. I appreciate you taking an interest.
this questionnaire is a great start... I'm sure people just need to be seen and heard
It would be great if there was an online forum for local artists to share their work so the community knows we are here and needing their support.

I worry about the many artists who are out of work. It's already a challenge, and this could be a breaking point. We need affordable housing and grants.
I have always believed that musicians have been asked to donate their time, performances, and music to charitable events with minimal consideration for the sheer amount of effort it takes to put together a performance or presentation. Our likenesses are used for tourism promotion, pamphlets, tv spots etc... with little front end support for the art that we create. Very small amounts of money can go an extremely long way in the creation of and stimulation of studio recordings, merch, vinyl, album art etc and can be focused locally... I love the Garrie Vereen fund and what its allowing, but I would love to see it continued beyond the pandemic, when its funds can be used for artistic ventures beyond simply paying rent and eating... I have often thought that an endowment, or grant based system would be a huge boon to our town and identity as a "music community" beyond the constant over simplification and glorification of the ecosystem's past... there is a tremendous amount of content being constantly created that could be promoted within and outside of Athens proactively and I believe effectively.
If there is anyway to create stronger community and togetherness among artists either now or in the future, whether it be through workshops, demonstrations, open studios, art talks, etc. I think that these opportunities should be diverse, accessible, and affordable/free to participate in.
Would be happy to volunteer after we are safe to mingle.
Needs based grants; free or reduced rates for artist space/studios - along the lines of ACC allowing old buildings to be used for \$1.00 a year like they do in Arkansas to rebuild distressed neighborhoods - emphasis on senior artists over 65 years and new college graduates with over \$10,000 worth of college loan debt - and finally - an artist pantry
An arts panel to brainstorm ideas for returning the dance community to full flower would be wonderful. Any monetary relief for wages lost should include independent dance artists and private studio teachers and dancers. It would be helpful to expand the reach of dance in Athens much like the model of East Athens Educational Dance Center to include all of Athens--- integrating West, North, and South, people of color and white! A dance festival dovetailing with other arts to celebrate our creative community would be welcome.
Many artists in town are self employed or independent contractors. My experience of applying to local and federal financial assistance programs has been extremely disappointing. I am learning that the financial programs for independent contractors and small business owners are extremely inefficient to nonexistent and have thus far provided zero support.
make exhibition space outside a studio
I don't have any real suggestions and I'm sorry for that. I am trying to buy anything I need from KA Artist Shop and not a big name corporate supply store. I wish I knew how to join the art community here in town. All I can say is keep trying to reach people, make information on how to join galleries or exhibitions easy to find, and connect artists with grants and jobs. Which you're already doing your best at.
Online studio visits, or talks. We need more online artist's communications these days!
Independent contractors need financial help.
We can get through this together! Times may be tough but we can work hard on art now to help the community after this crisis.
Helping local artists in this time is crucial to keeping them here in Athens beyond this.
I am in favor of people being able to make a living, including artists.
MUA's and hairstylists are as much affected by the CONVID pandemic restrictions as photographers.
I'm not sure really, there's a difference I'm my opinion between hobby artists and the self employed that rely on their art as 100% of their income. Folks that have nothing should get something, it shouldn't be because they are an artist or not. Do any artists really need support though? Isn't the struggle what makes art good and passionate? Art will be made regardless, it'll just be up to those that don't let adversity stand in the way.
I hope Athens and society as a whole will recognize the importance of the arts for a happy life and put in place protections, opportunities, and support mechanisms to ensure artists have emotional, physical, and financial well-being now and moving forward.

<p>For me personally, I would like support in selling my oil paintings on line; with excellent pricing during this time. I am all set-up to do this; while it would help greatly to also have local gallery promotion. Perhaps even an on-line gallery exhibit and sale.</p>
<p>Buy local art and get out to music venues.</p>
<p>Developing classes and workshops thru online technology for artists that also teach. I can imagine something like the WPA projects which supported artists in history and created some phenomenal works of art that are significant to our history and culture.</p>
<p>Artists have a unique way of expressing thoughts and actions to get the viewer thinking.</p>
<p>Get Michael's art supply to match money with athen's to create a food bank type operation for art supplies every other week for a drive through give away. Kids would love it like an Easter basket with art supplies to help them shelter at home this summer.</p>
<p>The closing of the Athens Farmer's Market, the closing of retail and gallery spaces, and the cancellation of public markets and festivals have shutdown our primary means of earning an income. These outlets and STRONG support, both public and private, of these outlets are essential to the recovery and survival of the artists and artisans of ACC.</p>
<p>Publicize ways to donate art supplies.</p>
<p>All shoppers should think local if at all possible. We could make more efforts to see one another's work on line.</p>
<p>A directory of artists and their websites showing items for sale with prices. Also a short bio would be helpful.</p>
<p>I created an art trade with about 25 other artists. It was basically a Secret Santa that I called a Pandemic Trade. It didn't make any of us any money, but it lifted a lot of spirits and made everyone happy and excited for a bit...maybe like a day, but it's something! But, maybe there is something to the trade idea. Get a bunch of artists to donate a piece of art (around \$40 or \$50 value). Have people that can afford it, buy raffle tickets. Assign a ticket number to a piece of art. Give the people with the matching ticket to the art the piece. Then split all the money that was put in the pot from the ticket sales and give it back to all of the participating artists. It probably wouldn't be much, but it would be something. And maybe not everyone who buys a ticket gets a piece? Maybe there is an opportunity to do this raffle idea multiple times? I'm just spitballing here, so this idea (if it went through) would need some adjusting. Also, my name is [name redacted] and if this idea is something anyone is interested in I would like to help see it come to life! [phone number redacted]</p>
<p>I worry very much that arts will be compromised due to the economic downturn. It would be great if we had a resource to help find gigs and/or work in the aftermath. Grants would be great too to help projects that have been started and are now on hold.</p>
<p>Artists need others to do meaningful art whether it be visual art, music, drama. We need each other.</p>
<p>I'm all about some financial support for Athens' arts and music community. We can't afford to lose this part of Athens' identity, with the people who define it financially on the edge at this time. Thank you for your intention!</p>