

# INCREASE ACCESS TO EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AFTER DISASTER STRIKES

*Get Self-Employed Workers Back to Work Faster with FEMA Tool Replacement Assistance*

## History

**FEMA:** In 1979, President Jimmy Carter signed an executive order creating the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and in 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act giving statutory authority to the current system of federal disaster relief through FEMA.

**REPLACEMENT OF TOOLS LOST IN A DISASTER:** FEMA's Other Needs Assistance (ONA) program, among other things, provides for the repair, replacement or cleaning of *tools, specialized or protective clothing, and equipment required by an employer as a condition of employment*. Prior to FEMA assuming this program, the American Red Cross administered a similar program that was available to all workers, regardless of whether they were self-employed or employed by others. It is likely that, in a logical but unfortunate attempt to delineate between individuals (served by

FEMA) and businesses (served by SBA); individual self-employed workers were excluded and fell through a crack between these two agencies.



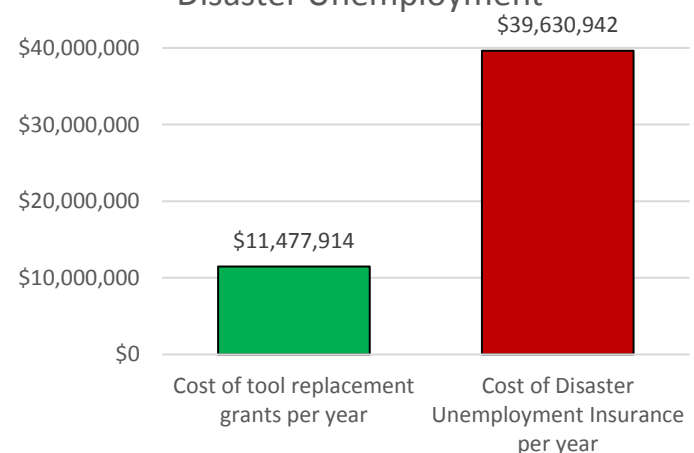
*Over 500 Musicians Lost Instruments in the 2010 Nashville Flood*

## **THE ARTS ADVOCATING FOR A CHANGE TO BENEFIT ALL SELF-EMPLOYED**

**WORKERS:** During the response to Hurricane Katrina, several organizations in the arts sector learned of FEMA's tool replacement assistance that would have helped many disaster survivors return to work had they not been self-employed (artists are twice as likely as other American workers to be self-employed). Since then, CERF+, the nation's leading nonprofit organization focused on safeguarding artists' livelihoods, working on behalf of the National Coalition for Arts Preparedness and Emergency Response, has been pursuing a change to allow self-employed workers to be eligible FEMA's tool replacement assistance. To be clear, we are talking about workers who work alone or with one or two assistants, such as plumbers, carpenters, carpenters, surveyors, construction workers, landscapers, photographers, craft artists, and more.

**TOOL REPLACEMENT IS COST-EFFECTIVE:** After a disaster, we know that it is imperative that workers quickly secure the tools they need to earn a living so they can salvage their livelihoods. In addition to income, self-employed workers can lose jobs/gigs, orders, customers and momentum as time passes after a disaster. Replacement of lost tools can enable many workers to return to work more quickly saving on the cost of other assistance. Estimates indicate that **the cost for tool replacement is less than one third of the cost of disaster unemployment insurance alone.**

## Cost of Tool Replacement vs. Disaster Unemployment



## Current Status

**RECENT DISASTERS:** In just the last seven months, the US has experienced three major hurricanes, wildfires, and a winter “bomb cyclone” affecting millions of Americans and underscoring the continuing need for this critical assistance.

**REACHING OUT TO CONGRESS TO:** Leadership from CERF+, state arts leaders and Americans for the Arts have held extensive conversations with key members of Congress and staff to update them on the problem and the proposed solution and to get their ideas on how best to pass this important measure.

**THE SOLUTION:** Congress could mandate a change in FEMA regulations to make tool replacement assistance available to all workers, including the self-employed. We are also proposing to streamline this assistance for all workers by removing additional application and means-testing requirements.

**WIDESPREAD SUPPORT:** This solution is now supported by the American Red Cross and organizations representing more than a half-million self-employed workers, including the Freelancers Union, American Craft Council, MusiCares, the Actors Fund, Fractured Atlas, Artist Trust, Springboard for the Arts, National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, and more.

## Take Action

**READY TO GO:** The solution is ready to go in Section 108 of the CREATE Act (S.661/H.R.1649) which has been introduced in both houses of Congress.

**\*Ask your Senators and Representative to become co-sponsors of The CREATE Act!**

**MULTIPLE OPTIONS:** We are also pursuing means to fast track this critical disaster assistance by asking to attach language from this section of the CREATE Act to another disaster-related bill such as a FEMA emergency supplemental appropriation.

**\*Offer to arrange a briefing session for your Senator’s or Representative’s legislative staff with our team. We can handle all the details, but need your support as a constituent and advocate!**



*More information on  
the CREATE Act*



*L-R: Colorado Wildfire, Hurricane Sandy, Nashville Flood, Hurricane Katrina*

*To arrange briefings on the CREATE Act and Disaster Assistance for Self-Employed Workers, contact:*

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# National Coalition for Arts' Preparedness and Emergency Response - Fact Sheet

[www.americansforthearts.org/ncaper](http://www.americansforthearts.org/ncaper)

## ORGANIZATIONS

[The Actors Fund](#)

[Americans for the Arts](#)

[3Arts](#)

[CERF+](#)

[Joan Mitchell Foundation](#)

[MusiCares](#)

[National Endowment for the Arts](#)

[National Performance Network](#)

[New York Foundation for the Arts](#)

[National Assembly of State Arts Agencies](#)

[Performing Arts Readiness Project](#)

[South Arts](#)

## INDIVIDUALS

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## What is the National Coalition for Arts' Preparedness and Emergency Response?

The Coalition formed in 2006 in response to the significant losses and devastation suffered by artists and creative economies in the wake of 21st century disasters. As a voluntary task force of national, regional, state and local arts organizations, public agencies, and foundations the Coalition helps ensure that artists, arts/cultural organizations, cultural funders, and arts businesses are able to and can respond effectively to disasters and emergencies affecting the arts and culture sector. The Coalition also believes the Arts Sector is an essential collaborator in broader societal efforts for preparedness, emergency response, and recovery to ensure the resilience of the general community. See the attached list of current Coalition members.

## What does the Coalition do?

The Coalition helps to build the stability and resilience of the Arts Sector by:

- Encouraging the arts sector to strengthen their readiness and resiliency through planning, networking and education,
- Developing a coordinated system of communication and information sharing for arts responders,
- Supporting their training and ongoing education,
- Fostering relationships with providers in the emergency services sector and advocating for improved disaster service delivery to artists, arts/cultural organizations, and arts businesses.

## What are some of the specific Coalition outcomes to date and/ or projects in progress?

- Convening of arts and cultural leaders in localities/regions affected by disaster for information-sharing, and to help connect aid needed with aid offered.
- Creation of the *Cultural Placekeeping Guide*, published online in spring 2017.
- Participation in the development and implementation of a NEA Director's Convening on Readiness and Resiliency: Advancing a Collaborative and National Strategy for the Arts in Times of Emergencies in April 2016.
- Creation and implementation of a national web-based communications network about arts preparedness, emergency response and recovery serving the Arts Sector in 2017.
- Creation of the Essential Guidelines for Arts Responders. This electronic document is sent to arts council and foundation staff members in areas affected by emergencies. Designed to provide guidance to people during and immediately after events, the document provides resources and suggested methods for organizing response for the arts community.
- Creation of a White Paper, "A Vision for Emergency Readiness, Response and Recovery in the Arts Sector" addressing the status and policy environment of readiness and response needs for arts organizations and artists.

## Who is involved?

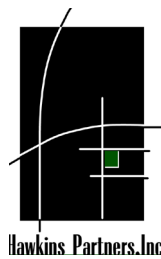
The Coalition is governed by a Steering Committee of individuals and organizational representatives, who bring a diverse range of perspectives, resources and experiences in order to serve the needs and interests of artists and the arts/cultural sector at large. The Coalition's definition of diversity is broad-based including: racial/ethnic, geographic, gender, diversity of artistic disciplines, of arts organizational size and type as well as individual artist perspective, for-profit, nonprofit, and public sector.

## How does the Coalition operate?

The Coalition is a flexible "network" rather than a stand-alone nonprofit organization. The Regional Arts Organization South Arts serves as the Coalition's fiscal agent and administrative base of operations. The Coalition seeks project and other funding support from foundations, public sector partners like NEA, and annual contributions from Steering Committee members (based on their capacity and circumstances). The Steering Committee is elected on a rotating basis and is chaired by two members. The Coalition meets (phone and/or video conferencing) monthly (or as needed). We have Working Groups involving Committee and at-large members that are convened as needed. We also try to have one in-person meeting each year, usually in January. The Steering Committee was strategically expanded in 2016.







# RIVERFRONT PARK & ASCEND AMPHITHEATER FACT SHEET



## ASCEND AMPHITHEATER

- A custom electronic orchestra shell allowing the Nashville Symphony and other musical acts to feel right at home while looking up at the stars
- 6800 Seating capacity: 2,200 temporary fixed seats, 100 premium box seats, and 4,500 lawn capacity.
- Road connections for additional sound equipment through stage points and towers to accommodate any band that wishes to play the Amphitheater
- Extensive fiber-optic based video infrastructure allowing an easy connection for broadcasting Amphitheater events
- Back of house and motor coach connection capabilities allowing all performers to see and hear the activities on the stage
- 2,500-square-foot community event room facing the Green side of the amphitheater with a 1,600-square-foot outdoor terrace.
- 5,000-square-foot artist wing
- 3,400 square-foot kitchen and crew dining facilities

## RIVERFRONT PARK

- 11 acres of park space that incorporates gardens, gathering areas, and lawns for events and others activities.
- Over 1-mile of paths
- Provides greenway connection to Rolling Mill Hill under Korean Veterans Boulevard
- 13,000-square-foot dog park
- 18,000-square-foot ornamental garden along the river with plant material labeled to botanic gardens standards
- 25 foot wide, 1,000 foot long promenade along First Avenue that incorporates a two-way protected bike lane
- 45 foot tall, large- scale, public art sculpture by artists Laura Haddad and Tom Drugan of Seattle, WA located at the terminus of Demonbreun along the promenade
- Restrooms and concessions located within the park
- Includes a variety of activities such as two custom ping pong tables, nine custom swings, two half-court basketball courts, game boards for chess and checkers, and active workout area including 11-station fitness circuit
- Public Wi-Fi available in selected areas of the park
- 1.5 acre event lawn on the north side of the amphitheater

## AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

2015 Nashville Scene's Best of Nashville - Best New Major Venue  
2016 Award of Excellence, American Society of Landscape Architects, Tennessee Chapter  
2016 Grand Award for Engineering Excellence, American Council of Engineering Companies, Tennessee  
2015 Nashville Downtown Partnership Award  
2016 AIA Middle Tennessee Honor Award  
2016 AIA Tennessee Award of Merit  
2016 Pollstar Award (Best New Major Concert Venue)  
2016 ULI Nashville Excellence in Development Award  
2016 ULI Nashville Excellence in Development People's Choice Award  
2016 AIA Gulf States Award of Merit  
2016 Academy of Country Music Industry Award – (Venue of the Year – Medium Capacity)



Photo Credit: Aerial Innovations of TN



Photo Credit: Bob Schatz



Photo Credit: Bob Schatz



Photo Credit: Matt Carbone

## LEED/ SUSTAINABILITY (LEED GOLD CERTIFICATION)

- 2,800-square-foot green roof
- 400,000-gallon rain harvesting tank
- Geothermal heating and cooling system
- Geothermal ice machines
- 1,350 square feet of solar panels on the roof
- 267 trees representing over 38 different species and will achieve Level 1 arboretum status
- 48 bike parking spaces and a bike repair station
- 9,000 square feet of permeable paving
- 2,705,500 tons of recycled content through April
- 2,895 tons of crushed rock used onsite
- Solar-powered media charger

## QUICK FACTS

- Total Value: \$52 Mil
- Construction Schedule: Open July, 2015. 14 mo. construction period
- General Contractor: SKANSKA
- Project Lead: Hawkins Partners, Inc.



Japanese Maple	Southern Magnolia	Nuttall Oak
Red Maple	Sweetbay Magnolia	Willow Oak
Sugar Maple	Black Gum	Bald Cypress
River Birch	Persian Ironwood	Linden
Water Hickory	Chinese Pistache	American Elm
Bitternut Hickory	London Planetree	Lacebark Elm
Yellowwood	Crimson Spire Oak	Trident Maple
Deodar Cedar	White Oak	Serviceberry
Ginkgo	Swamp White Oak	Redbud
Eastern Red Cedar	Overcup Oak	Fringetree
Tulip Poplar	Burr Oak	Sumac
Cucumber Magnolia	Chinkapin Oak	

## ARBORETUM LEVEL 1: 225 TREES, 36 SPECIES

GEO THERMAL

SOLAR PANELS

PHASE 2  
OVERLOOK AND PROMENADE  
PUMP STATION

PHASE 2  
FLOOD WALL  
EXTENSION

FLOOD WALL

CUTOFF WALL

3.35 AC  
TO BIOSWALE

2010 FLOOD LINE

5 AC  
TO CISTERN

BIOSWALE

3.35 ac drain to bioswales

GREEN ROOF

2,800 sq ft of green roof slows and evaporates water

CISTERN

5 ac drain to 375,000 gal cistern for park irrigation

PERMEABLE  
PAVERS

12,500 sq ft of pervious pavers infiltrate water

