



Entertainment Commission

City and County of San Francisco



January 21, 2021

Ms. Linda Wong, Clerk
Board of Supervisors, Budget and Finance Committee
City Hall Room 244
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: BOS File No. 201414 – Administrative Code - San Francisco Music and Entertainment Venue Recovery Fund

Entertainment Commission Recommendation to the Budget and Finance Committee: **Support with recommendations.**

Dear Ms. Wong:

On January 19, 2021 the Entertainment Commission (the “Commission” or “EC”) heard BOS File No. 201414 – Administrative Code - San Francisco Music and Entertainment Venue Recovery Fund.

Honey Mahogany, Legislative Aide to Supervisor Matt Haney, presented an overview of the proposed legislation to the Commission and its objectives to recover music and entertainment venues that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 emergency. She reported that the Office of Small Business (OSB) would administer the fund and that the Small Business Commission had recommended that the Board of Supervisors appropriate \$1.5 million to create the fund.

If enacted, this legislation would advance the policy recommendation of “Provide Financial Relief for Independent Venues” in the [Entertainment Commission’s December 15, 2020 Letter of Support](#) submitted to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors. In addition, it would advance the recommendations from the SF Economic Recovery Task Force (ERTF), the SF Venue Coalition, and the Independent Venue Alliance.

The Commission voted (7-0) to recommend that the Board of Supervisors support the legislation with the following recommendations to improve implementation of the grant program and ultimately assist to restore the economic vitality of San Francisco’s small, independent venues:



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1. Define Entertainment Commission's Role in Supporting Administration

While the legislation calls for the Commission to consult on the administration of the fund, it does not define its role in supporting OSB in this administration.

These activities could strengthen this collaboration:

- Create an interdepartmental staff working group (OSB, EC, OEWD, Controller) to advise on implementation and assessment of the program.
- OSB would provide status updates to commissioners at Entertainment Commission meetings. Consider quarterly updates.
- The Commission promotes grant opportunities to venue operators, and provides technical assistance and educational materials on the grant application process as needed to support OSB.
 - Commission does proactive outreach to Cultural Districts, Community Benefit Districts, as well as industry associations including the Independent Venue Alliance, SF Venue Coalition, and the SF Queer Nightlife Fund.
- As a regulatory agency, the Commission will abstain from any decision-making authority and influence in the awarding of grants to entertainment permit holders.

2. Identify and Secure Sources of Funding

The legislation does not identify possible sources of funding, or how the funding would be secured—from both private and public sources. Identifying an agency or working group to do a timely assessment and create a funding strategy, potentially modeled after Give2SF or other public-private partnerships, could help this legislation achieve its goal. Securing seed funding, as the SBC is proposing, or a City-sponsored challenge grant could incentivize private sector donations.

3. Plan for Long-term Sustainability of Fund

The legislation proposes to transition the fund's distribution criteria and priorities after January 2022, but there is no language that addresses sustaining fundraising. Given the long-term recovery needs of independent venues, and the intense economic pressures on them before the pandemic, continued investment in this fund beyond the proposed end date could help protect San Francisco's venues from displacement.

4. Consult and Recognize the Industry

The legislation gives OSB discretion to consult with businesses and community organizations representing the interests of venues regarding the Fund's implementation, and with other City agencies. Ensuring there is consistent entertainment industry consultation in implementation of the grant program could help serve the industry's changing needs. Furthermore, if the City can maintain recognition of San Francisco's small, independent venues as economic and cultural assets - and continue elevating them as key voices at the table - then the City can better position them for long-term stability.



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Thank you in advance for considering the Commission's recommendations. Feel free to contact me with any questions or if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Maggie Weiland
Executive Director
San Francisco Entertainment Commission

cc: Matt Haney, Member, Board of Supervisors – Budget and Finance Committee Chair
Gordon Mar, Member, Board of Supervisors – Budget and Finance Committee Member
Ahsha Safaí, Member, Board of Supervisors – Budget and Finance Committee Member
Shamann Walton, President, Board of Supervisors
Andres Power, Policy Director, Office of Mayor London N. Breed
Sophia Kittler, Liaison to the Board of Supervisors, Office of Mayor London N. Breed
Martha Cohen, Director, Special Events, Office of Mayor London N. Breed
Joaquín Torres, Director, Office of Economic and Workforce Development
Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Director, Office of Small Business
Ben Rosenfield, Controller, Office of the Controller



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