

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0307

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June 15, 2021

The Honorable Isabella Guzman
Administrator
Small Business Administration
409 3rd Street, SW
Washington, DC 20416

Dear Administrator Guzman,

I am writing out of concern for businesses in my district regarding the functionality and continued delays of Shuttered Venues Operators Grant (SVOG) program. Over the last year businesses across the nation faced unprecedented challenges surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and many businesses in my district took swift action to protect their employees, their patrons, and my constituents. As you know, live venue operators were particularly hard hit as their businesses depend on the ability to congregate – something especially popular in Tucson Arizona, which has a vibrant arts and music scene. More than 6 months ago, Congress responded by passing the SVOG program to provide a direct lifeline to these businesses.

Many of these businesses have been closed throughout the duration of the pandemic, and without immediate assistance are moments away from permanent closure. I appreciate your recent commitment to my staff that the SBA will provide applicants who have not had their applications fully processed weekly updates. However, these businesses need information, conclusions, and immediate funding. Live venues are an integral part of our economic engine and Tucson and surrounding areas will be changed forever if these delays don't end. With funding in doubt, they cannot move forward to hire, book talent, start spending on marketing, and ultimately come back into operation.

I respectfully request that you expedite their requests, provide them with an immediate status update, and release funds. Below is a list of some of the small businesses in my district and surrounding areas that have applied or are applying for the SVOG program. My understanding is they are still waiting for assistance:

6 G Events, LLC
Arts Express, Inc.
DZP, Inc. (Danny Zelisko Presents)
Fox Tucson Theatre Foundation
Jazz in January, Inc. dba Tucson Jazz Festival
Latin American Social Club, El Casino Ballroom
Loft Cinema Inc

Lucky Man Productions, LLC dba Lucky Man Concerts, LLC
Rhythm Room LLC
Rialto Theatre
Scoundrel and Scamp Theatre
Soft Kitty Entertainment LLC dba Phenomenon Concerts
Sunven Entertainment Group, Inc dba Marquee Theatre
The Invisible Theatre
The Maverick, Western Showcase LLC
The Rogue Theatre
The Straitjacket LLC

I appreciate the work you have done throughout the pandemic to serve my constituents. I look forward to hearing back and more importantly, for your immediate communication with listed businesses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress