

Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Briefing

COVID-19 Impact on OAC and Arts Ecosystem
Operations

May 5, 2020

Office of Arts and Culture
City of Dallas



City of Dallas

Purpose

- Provide updated on OAC's services and operations
- Share the virtual arts offerings online
- Discuss current status of Dallas museums

Current operations under COVID-19 restrictions:

The City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture...

- Procures artistic services for Dallas' residents and visitors
 - We are working to adjust all COP contracts and Round 3 of ArtsActivate (project grants) is on hold
- Operates two large cultural venues (Majestic and Moody), four Cultural Centers, and manages 12 other facilities via contracts
 - These venues are closed to the public with only essential staff (security) allowed on the premises
 - Cultural Centers are expanding online offerings to the extent possible, and OAC is helping publicize all arts groups' efforts online
- Manages public art commissions and stewards the conservation of our collections
 - Working to keep projects moving forward
 - Conservation projects have progressed, most notably removal of the Marta Pan sculpture from City Hall Plaza
- Operates WRR 101.1 FM radio
 - This is ongoing, as media is deemed essential
 - Managing in a rapidly changing/declining advertising environment

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Virtual arts experiences expanding rapidly and widely:

From the safety of your home, you can now experience dozens of offerings, including:

- The Nasher's entire museum online
- A virtual tour of the Meyerson Symphony Center and many, many online music experiences
- Dallas Black Dance Theatre's #DBDTatHome videos

All four OAC-managed cultural centers have launched and/or dramatically expanded their online offerings:

- Bath House Cultural Center - Slappy and Monday's clown show, recordings of 130 Productions
- South Dallas Cultural Center – launched new blog *Black Culture Celebrated*
- Oak Cliff Cultural Center's – virtual open mic nights, bedtime yoga
- Latino Cultural Center – bilingual story time, streaming art workshops, conversations with Latinx artists

OAC worked quickly to gather all of these offerings as well as best practices from national organizations on our webpage under OAC from home: www.dallasculture.org/oacfromhome

The OAC Culture Calendar now reflects these virtual opportunities as well: <https://www.attpac.org/culturecalendar/virtual-events/>

Major museums in Dallas are not re-opening:

“We are aware of the inclusion of museums in the state's phase one plan to re-open. With the health and safety of our visitors and staff as our top priority, the **DMA** will not re-open on May 1. We will confirm a re-opening timeline as soon as we determine that we can do so with the proper measures in place.”

“While the Governor of Texas has listed museums among those entities permitted to participate in Phase 1 reopening, the **Nasher Sculpture Center** will hold off reopening, with the health and safety of staff and visitors as our highest priority.”

“The **Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum** is eager to share its mission in the way that our Museum was meant to be experienced, one person at a time. While we prepare for the ideal time to reopen, we are taking proactive steps to ensure we do this in the safest way possible.

-We are proactively monitoring our staff's temperatures for a minimum of two weeks prior to reopening.

-We are also working to deliver an experience that respects social distancing guidelines and best practices for health and safety. The safety of our visitors and staff has always been, and remains, our top priority.

Please visit our website and social media channels for regular updates on the local and federal safety guidance and best practices we are implementing, as well as a target reopening date. We will continue to offer free online educational programming available on our website.

We are cautious, yet confident, that we can reopen to those who have supported us over the years and those who have yet to walk through our doors. Take care of yourselves, and your families. Let's continue to have hope for the future and choose acceptance, understanding, and respect. Thank you for supporting the Museum and our mission.”

“The health and well-being of our guests, staff and community is our highest priority. While we support the eventual reopening of certain sectors of the economy – and appreciate that the plan recognizes the unique nature of each institution – the **Perot Museum of Nature and Science** will not reopen May 1. Our leadership team will thoughtfully consider the ongoing social-distancing mandates and other compliance factors as we determine when to reopen.”

Operational status and look forward:

- Museums:
 - Despite Governor Abbott's updates allowing for a May 1st reopening to 25% capacity, none of Dallas' museums have re-opened
- Performing Arts venues:
 - All of the City-owned venues have gathered a list of needs for PPE, cleaning and operational equipment for re-opening
 - Many of the workers are covered by unions, such as Actors Equity, and these groups will have to comply with local regulations as well as these union protocols
 - Social distancing protocols will severely limit performances as many tours will not be financially viable at 25% or 50% of capacity
 - Performances also rely on weeks of auditions, rehearsals, and other work (tech rehearsals, costuming, etc.) that precedes "curtain up", and that work has not been allowed
- Cultural Centers: Staff has begun operational planning for social distancing and cleaning protocols, but opening dates remain unknown
- Limits on PPE remain a considerable challenge – on any given day, we estimate more than 600 FTEs would need appropriate protective supplies (masks, hand sanitizer, deep cleaning of buildings) in order to reach full operations of Dallas' arts ecosystem – that is just staff needs, not audiences

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