



LEAGUE OF INDEPENDENT THEATER
collective voice for our independent community

Rent Forgiveness Playbook

The Indie Theatre Community Needs You to Contact Your Representatives.

Well, it's been over a year now—after 12 months of forced shut-downs, the urgency to **#CANCELRENT** remains.

Today we're calling members of the State Legislature who have not yet signed on to co-sponsor this legislation, and telling them why they should, as well as calling members who DO co-sponsor the bill, and thanking them /slash/ encouraging them to help get it moving through the legislature. See the [Assembly version, A.3190, here](#); and the [Senate version, S.3349, here](#).

It's a critical time for #CANCELRENT right now -- the state is putting together the budget, and we want to make sure this is a priority!

First, call **YOUR** member of Assembly and Senator!

Find who represents you here: [League of Women Voters' Find Your Elected Officials tool](#)

And, of course, the Governor represents you, too!

Call Governor Andrew Cuomo's office: 518-474-8390

[send the governor a digital message here](#)

Check [here \(Assembly\)](#) and [here \(Senate\)](#) to see if your representative is currently a co-sponsor of the bill, so you can use the appropriate script below (there's one for those who *do not* currently co-sponsor, and one for those who are already co-sponsors).

Remember: when calling, make the script your own! Below are guides, and you can just read the script as is, but you can also put it into your own words!

After you've called YOUR representatives, and the Governor's office, below is a list of other members to call (*pick those that cover venues/areas where you work; or, call them all!*):

Members who DO NOT CURRENTLY sponsor the bill

NYS Assembly

Catherine Nolan ([District 37](#), Queens): LIC: 718-784-3194; Albany: 518-455-4851

Venues in district: The Secret Theater (CLOSED), Chocolate Factory, Plaxall

Daniel J. O'Donnell ([District 69](#), Manhattan): DO: 212-866-3970; Albany: 518-455-5603

Venues in district: Pushkin Hall, New Stage Theatre

Dan Quart ([District 73](#), Manhattan): DO: 212-605-0937; Albany: 518-455-4794

Venues in district: 59E59

Marcela Mitaynes ([District 51](#), Brooklyn): DO: 718-492-6334

Venues in district: Target Margin Theater

Deborah Glick ([District 66](#), Manhattan): DO: 212-674-5153; Albany: 518-455-4841

Venues in district: The Kraine, The New Ohio, Access

NYS Senate

Liz Krueger ([District 28](#), Manhattan): (518) 455-2297; DO: (212) 490-9535

Venues in district: 59E59, Episcopal Actors Guild

Brian Kavanaugh ([District 26](#), Manhattan/Brooklyn): 518-455-2625

Venues in district: Dixon Place, 3LD, Access, Abrons, UnSpace, Neutral Chaos

Members who SPONSOR the bill

NYS Assembly

Harvey Epstein ([District 74](#), Manhattan): 212-979-9696

Venues in district: UNDER St. Marks, 14th Street Y, Nuyorican Poets Cafe

Yuh-Line Niou ([District 65](#), Manhattan - pronounced "you-lean new"): 518-455-3640

Venues in district: Dixon Place, 3LD

Zohran Mamdi ([District 36](#), Queens): 718-545-3889

Venues in district: QED, APAC

NYS Senate

Brad Hoylman ([District 27](#), Manhattan): (212) 633-8052

Venues in district: The Kraine, UNDER St. Marks, The New Ohio, Rattlestick

Michael Gianaris ([District 12](#), Queens): (518) 455-3486

Venues in district: The Secret Theater (CLOSED), Chocolate Factory

Jabari Brisport ([District 25](#), Brooklyn): (718) 643-6140

Venues in district: BAM, Actors Fund Arts Center, RE:GEN:CY, BRIC

SCRIPTS

Call those who DO NOT CURRENTLY co-sponsor with this script:

"Hello, my name is **[your name]**, I'm calling with a message for **[Representative]**; can I leave it with you?

I'm calling because I am a member of the independent theatre community. I make and enjoy theatre in small venues throughout the city, **[and I live in your district]** or **[including some in your district, like (see above)]**.

Since March of last year, indie venues have been closed by government mandate, to help prevent the spread of Covid-19—in essence, legally prevented from earning revenue. While the Governor has said venues can re-open at 25% capacity starting next month, between infrastructure upgrades, PPE, and staffing requirements to enforce new protocols, even

fully-selling-out 25% capacity houses would not come close to a “break-even” point. Plus, as most of our indie theaters rent their spaces, they’re still technically on the hook for all of their back rent. Without help, there is no way these venues can survive.

Senator Hoylman and Assembly Member Epstein have come up with a plan to help save these spaces. They have introduced S.3349 / A.3190, which would provide the landlords of these spaces with a good portion of the rent due, and allow our venues to get back on their feet as we begin the long, slow process of returning things back to normal.

I see that **[Representative]** is not currently a co-sponsor of this legislation. Please ask your legislative director to look into S.3349 / A.3190. We need to pass it, or something like it, because small, community-based arts venues, like indie theaters, are vital to this city. They are economic drivers. They provide jobs. They provide a sense of community. New York just wouldn’t be ***New York*** without the arts. We need your help to keep our independent arts spaces alive.

I would appreciate hearing from your office regarding their position on this and other efforts to save small arts venues. You can reach me at **(phone #)**, or by e-mail at **(e-mail)**. Please, help save our indie theatres.”

[SPECIAL CLOSING, for calling the Governor’s office]

I urge the Governor to take a look at this plan, and to announce his support for this innovative way to keep small arts venues open. Please, Governor—we need your help to save our spaces. I would appreciate hearing from your office regarding Governor Cuomo’s position on this legislation. You can reach me at **(phone #)**, or by e-mail at **(e-mail)**. Thank you.

Call those who ALREADY SPONSOR with this script:

“Hello, my name is **[your name]**, I’m calling with a message for **[Representative]**; can I leave it with you?

I’m calling to thank **[Representative]** for their support of a reasonable commercial rent relief program. I am a member of the independent theatre community. I make and enjoy theatre in small venues throughout the city, **[and I live in your district]** or **[including some in your district, like (see above)]**.

Since March of last year, indie venues have been closed by government mandate, to help prevent the spread of Covid-19—in essence, legally prevented from earning revenue. While the Governor has said venues can re-open at 25% capacity starting next month, between infrastructure upgrades, PPE, and staffing requirements to enforce new protocols, even fully-selling-out 25% capacity houses would not come close to a “break-even” point. Plus, as most of our indie theaters rent their spaces, they’re still technically on the hook for all of their back rent. Without help, there is no way these venues can survive.

[Representative's] support of Senator Hoylman and Assembly Member Epstein's commercial rent relief bill, S.3349 / A.3190, could provide the landlords of these spaces with a good portion of the rent due, and allow our venues to get back on their feet as we begin the long, slow process of returning things back to normal.

Thank you so much for signing on as a co-sponsor of this legislation. We need to pass it, or something like it, because small, community-based arts venues, like indie theaters, are vital to this city. They are economic drivers. They provide jobs. They provide a sense of community. New York just wouldn't be ***New York*** without the arts. We need your help to keep our independent arts spaces alive.

Please, encourage [Representative] to push this legislation as hard as they can, to see that it gets to the Governor's desk. I would appreciate hearing from your office regarding their position on this and other efforts to save small arts venues. You can reach me at (phone #), or by e-mail at (e-mail). Please, help save our indie theatres."

Report back!

Did anyone have a question? Ask for more information on the bill? Wonder aloud about the legality of cancelling rent? **Please, let us know!** We can help to follow up with any members' offices that have questions.