



CITY OF NEW YORK
**MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD
FOUR**

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JEFFREY LEFRANCOIS
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

October 27, 2023

Patricia Swinney Kaufman
Commissioner
Mayor Office of Media and Entertainment
1 Centre Street
New York, New York 10007

Re: Revised Small Theater Study

Dear Commissioner Swinney Kaufman,


Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) at its October 4th 2023 Full Board meeting voted 40 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining, and 0 present but not eligible to vote, in support of an updated, post pandemic study of small/independent theaters from the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment. The social, economic, and cultural impacts that independent theaters have endured since the last study, "All New York's A Stage: New York City Small Theater Industry Cultural and Economic Impact Study," completed in 2019 cannot be understated. MCB4 appreciates the visit by Carla Hoke Miller and Alia Jones Harvey from MOME at the Arts, Culture, Education, and Street Life Committee (ACES) meeting on Monday, July 10, 2023.

To ensure that small theaters continue to play an integral role in New York City's cultural landscape and economy, we believe it is imperative to complete an updated study with the objective of understanding how to stimulate economic growth and sustainability during a time when audiences are shrinking. Additionally, the increasing challenge to obtain space for production development, showings, and administrative duties amid rising real estate costs needs targeted solutions. The post pandemic study should include updates on the following sections: Cultural Impacts, Economic Impacts (including an assessment of tourism surrounding small venue theaters post COVID), Revenue Generation and Expenses, Industry Support and Challenges, and specific, actionable proposals in Recommendations. While we appreciated recommendations from the 2019 study, we urge

MOME to include a more innovative, nuanced approach to the recovery and sustainability of small theaters post COVID.

Thank you for your office's commitment to the small/independent theater cultural community. We look forward to an updated study that can aid in our advocacy for this sector within MCB4 and ultimately all boroughs of New York City.

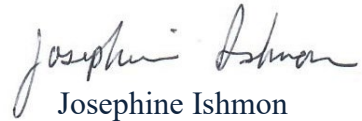
Sincerely,



Jeffery LeFrancois
Chair
Community Board 4



Allen Oster
Co-Chair
ACES Committee



Josephine Ishmon
Co-Chair
ACES Committee

cc: Hon. Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough Presidents office
Hon. Erik Bottcher, City Council