

Survey Report

Questionnaire Related
to the Activity Status of
Artists in Kyoto
[Summary]



Questionnaire Related to the Activity Status of Artists in Kyoto

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Kyoto City held a questionnaire to clarify the current situation of individuals, organizations, and businesses engaged in culture and the arts, and to ascertain what was needed for them to restart and sustain their activities. The questionnaire was answered by those from various fields—including fine art, music, theater, dance, traditional performing arts, and lifestyle culture—working in a range of different capacities such as expression, education and research, and technology.

The questionnaire revealed that more than 90% of individuals, organizations, and businesses were forced to postpone or cancel their performances, exhibitions, events, etc., due to the pandemic. Loss of income due to these postponements and cancellations averaged at 882,000 yen per individual, and 3,645,000 yen per organization/business. In total, the income of individuals was down 890 million yen, and down 870 million yen for organizations/businesses. These figures only represent those of respondents (1,122 individuals; 280 organizations/businesses), and the actual economic loss is thought to be much greater.

Responses also revealed that, due to loss of income, individuals struggled to sustain their activities due to the costs of creation and presentation, while for organizations/businesses, it was the costs of creation, management, and outsourcing related to culture and the arts. There were also many individuals who said they struggled to pay for food and daily necessities, showing that in fields with many individuals whose principal source of income is artistic activity, not only was their work affected, but their livelihood, too.

When asked what problems they are currently facing, the most common response among individuals was “Loss of opportunity to showcase artwork.” The next most common response was “Unable to make a living,” following which was “Unable to provide/be provided training or instructions for the study of arts.” For organizations/businesses, the most common response was “Losses due to postponement or cancellation of performances, exhibitions, events, etc.,” and the second most common was “Unable to predict the future of the business.” When asked what type of assistance was required, the most common response among individuals, organizations, and businesses was “Loss compensation.” Next was “Funding assistance for restarting activities and new developments,” then “Opportunities and venues for cultural and art activities,” and “Assistance with online development.” It is clear from these responses that both financial support and support to continue activities is required.

In view of these serious responses, as a city of culture and arts, Kyoto will examine future measures and continuously support culture and art activities. This will ensure that those in the field can succeed in their endeavors to find new ways of expression and appreciation as they live in a society alongside the virus.

Overview of the Survey

Response period	May 7th~20th, 2020 (14 days)
Implement organization	Kyoto City(implemented by Kyoto Art Center [Kyoto Arts and Culture Foundation])
Subjects	①Individuals who have residence or base of activities in Kyoto ②Organizations/Businesses operating or that have base in Kyoto
Method	Internet Survey (some by mail)
Number of responses	Individuals: 1,184 Organizations/Businesses: 292
Number of valid responses	Individuals: 1,122 Organizations/Businesses: 280 ※One of the followings in Kyoto prefecture: residence, base of activities or production and presentation
Survey design and Analysis cooperation	Osawa Torao (Center for Arts and Culture, NLI Research Institute, NPO Arts NPO Link board) Higuchi Sadayuki (Osaka City University Urban Research Plaza Research fellow) Nakagawa Shin (Osaka City University Urban Research Plaza Specially Appointed Professor) Yoshizawa Yayoi (Kyoritsu Women's University Professor)
Publication	Kyoto city, Kyoto Art Center (Kyoto Arts and Culture Foundation)

Key Point

KEY POINT

1

Almost all respondents had to postpone or cancel performances, exhibitions, events, etc., due to COVID-19. On average, individuals saw a loss of 882,000 yen each, and organizations/businesses a loss of 3,645,000 yen. These losses meant that respondents couldn't pay for the costs of creation and presentation, management and maintenance of offices and facilities, and food and daily necessities.

KEY POINT

2

When asked what difficulties they were currently facing, 910 respondents (81.1%) said "Loss of opportunity to showcase artwork." More than 50% said they were "Unable to make a living," highlighting the gravity of the situation.

KEY POINT

3

"Loss compensation" was the most common response when asked what support was most required, while other responses included "Funding assistance for restarting activities and new developments," "Opportunities and venues for cultural and art activities," and "Assistance with online development." Respondents also highlighted the need for consultation and information regarding assistance measures, showing how comprehensive support measures are required.

KEY POINT

4

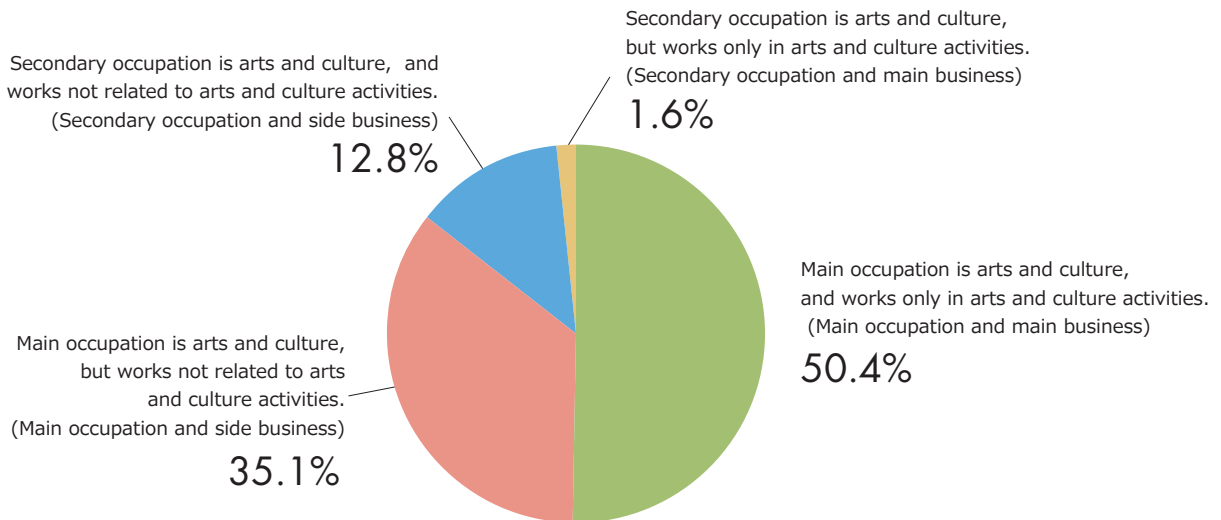
In the free comments section, although many respondents wrote that the Kyoto City Cultural Arts Activity Emergency Incentive Grant would support the continuation of their activities, many were still facing severe difficulties, showing that continued support and improved environments will be essential.

Introduction

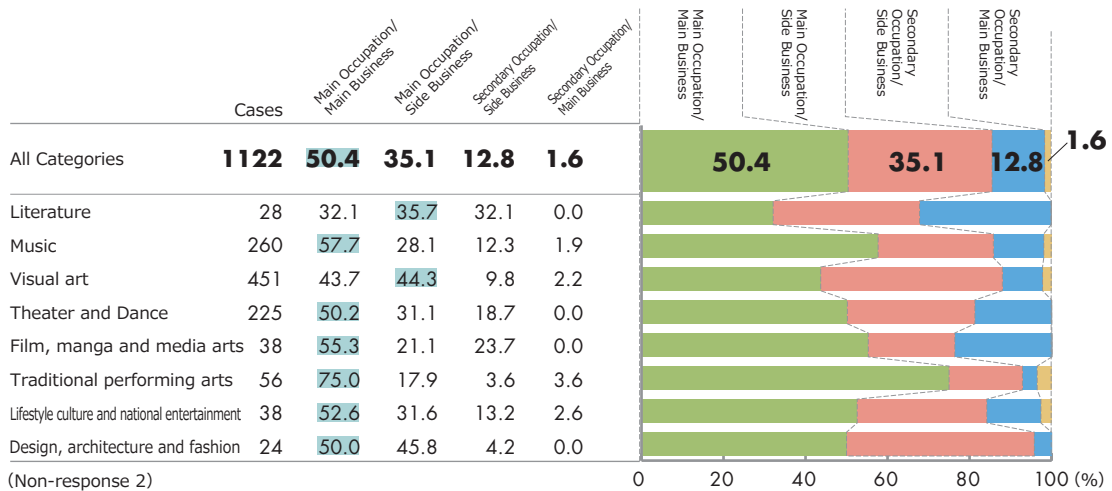
Main Occupation/Secondary Occupation and Main Business/Side Business

This questionnaire was held at the same time as calls for applicants to the Kyoto City Cultural Arts Activity Emergency Incentive Grant. The questionnaire aimed to reveal how COVID-19 had affected activities, and those who stated culture and the arts as their main occupation—and who were only engaged in activities related to culture and the arts (main occupation and main business)—accounted for around 50% of respondents. By category, around 75% of those involved in traditional performing arts stated that it was their main business, which was the highest percentage of all categories.

Main Occupation/Secondary Occupation and Main Business/Side Business



The categories of discipline genre of Main Occupation/Secondary Occupation and Main Business/Side Business (8 categories)



Summary

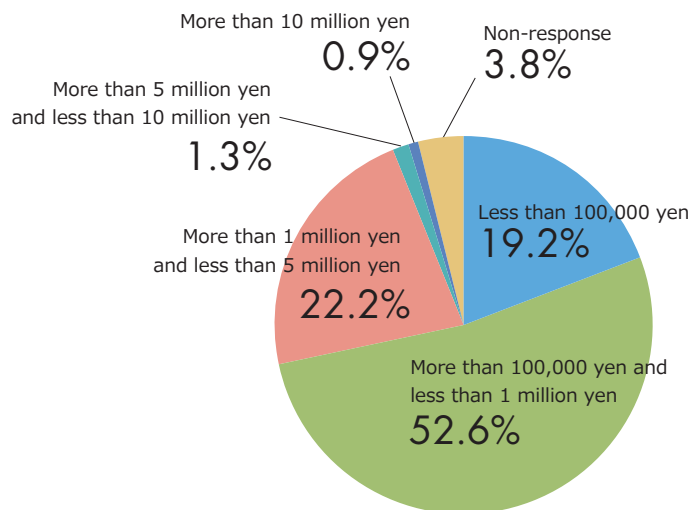
KEY POINT 1 The Effects of COVID-19 and Financial Losses

On average, individuals saw a loss of 882,000 yen each, and organizations/businesses a loss of 3,645,000 yen. In total, the income of individuals was down 890 million yen, and down 870 million yen for organizations/businesses. These figures only represent those of respondents to the questionnaire (1,122 individuals; 280 organizations/businesses), and the actual economic loss is thought to be much greater. By month, April saw the highest losses. For individuals, these losses affected the ability to pay for presentation and creation activities, tools, and food and daily necessities. For organizations/businesses, the losses affected the ability to pay for operational costs, management and maintenance of offices and facilities, equipment, and more.

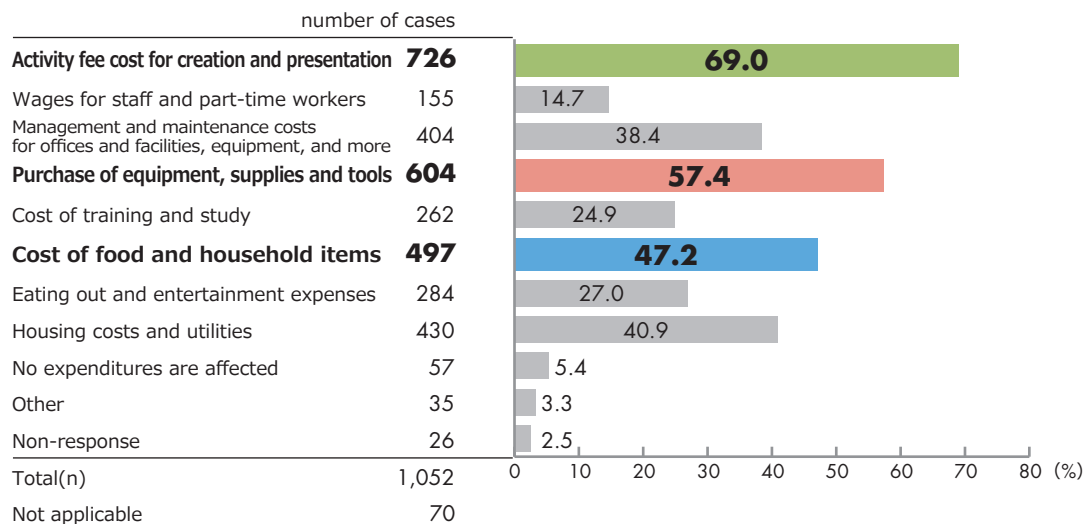
Individuals

Accounting for Income Losses

	Amount (Yen)
Total	892,954,903
Average	882,367
Max.	26,500,000
Min.	0
Total (case)	1,012
Non-response (case)	40
Not applicable (case)	70



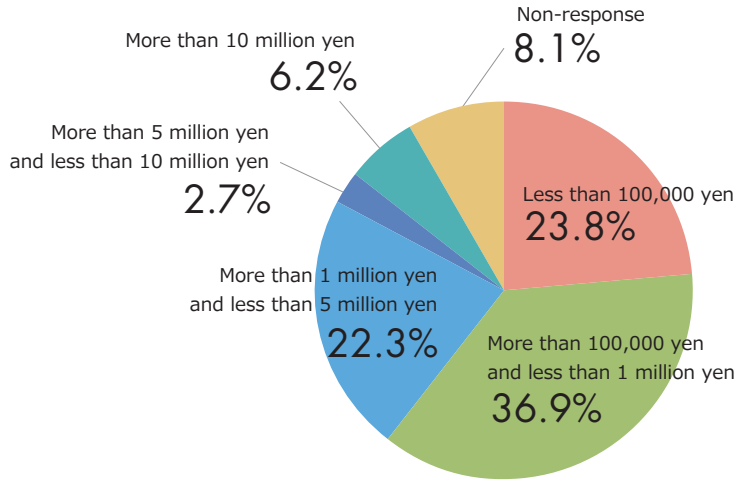
Expenses affecting payment



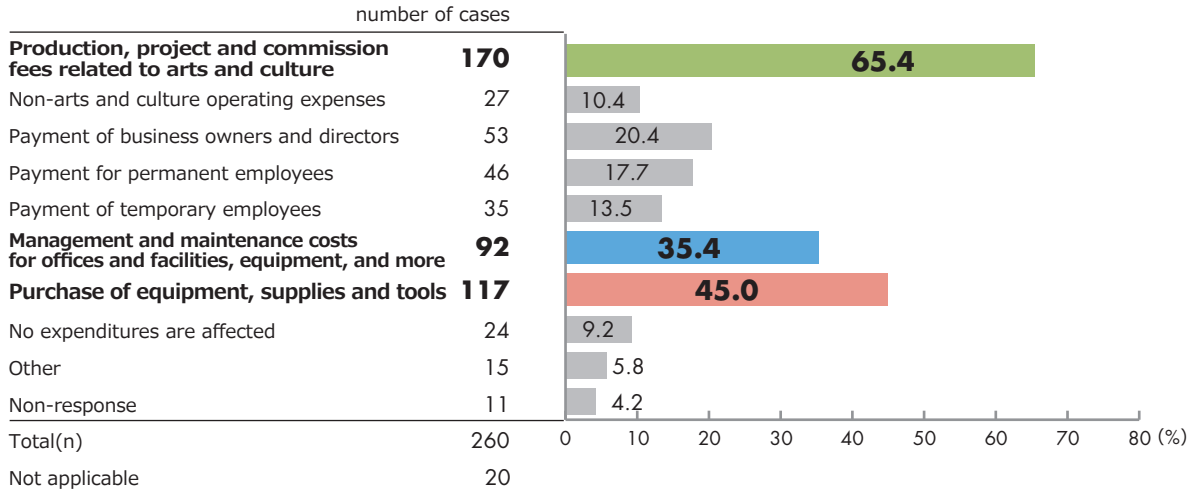
Organizations/Businesses

Accounting for Income Losses

	Amount (Yen)
Total	871,180,211
Average	3,645,105
Max.	298,000,000
Min.	0
Total (case)	239
Non-response (case)	21
Not applicable (case)	20



Expenses affecting payment

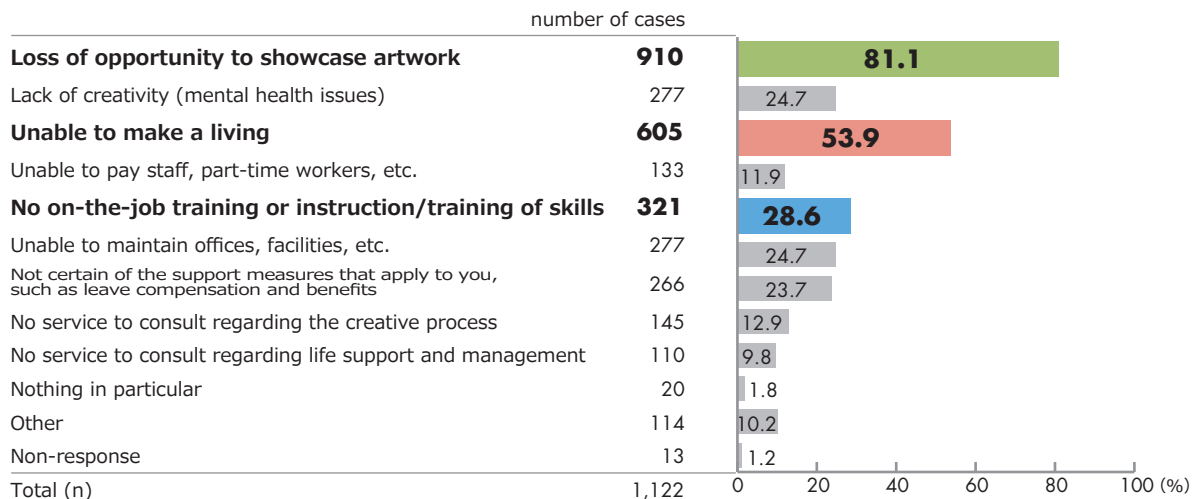


KEY POINT 2 Current Difficulties

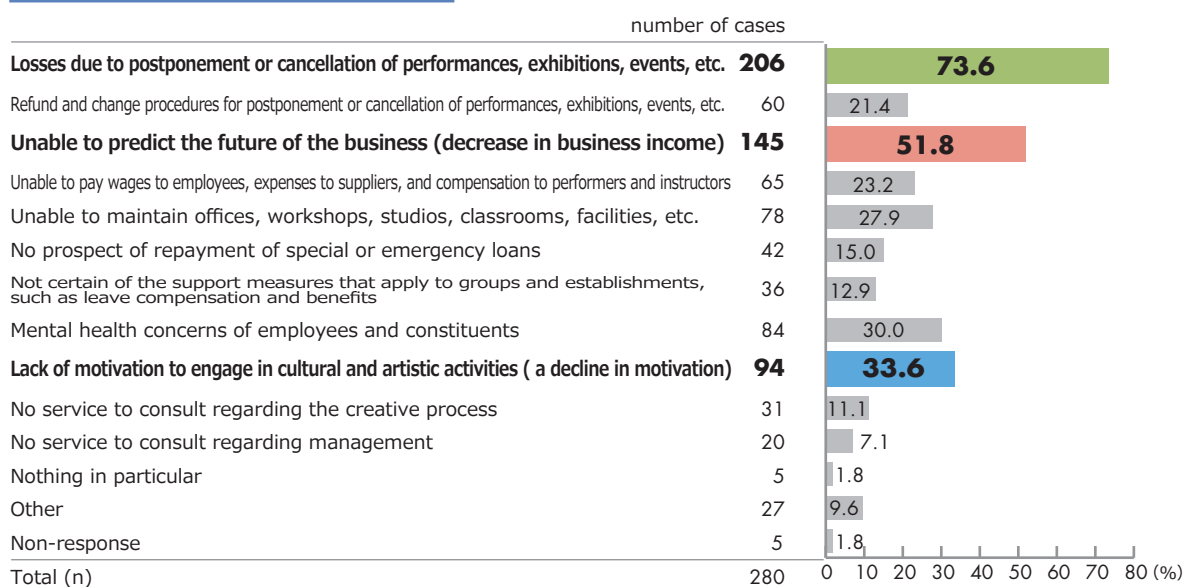
When asked about current difficulties, 910 individuals (81.1%) said “Loss of opportunity to showcase artwork.” Meanwhile, the gravity of the situation was highlighted by the fact that more than 50% responded “Unable to make a living.” Among organizations/businesses, the severity of current circumstances was clear with 70% concerned about “Losses due to postponement or cancellation of performances, exhibitions, events, etc.,” and more than 50% “Unable to predict the future of the business.” Both individuals and organizations/businesses stated that psychologically, their motivation toward activities related to culture and the arts had decreased, with other tangible worries such as “Unable to maintain offices, facilities, etc.” showing the various issues that respondents are facing.

Current Difficulties (multiple answers)

individuals



Organizations/Businesses

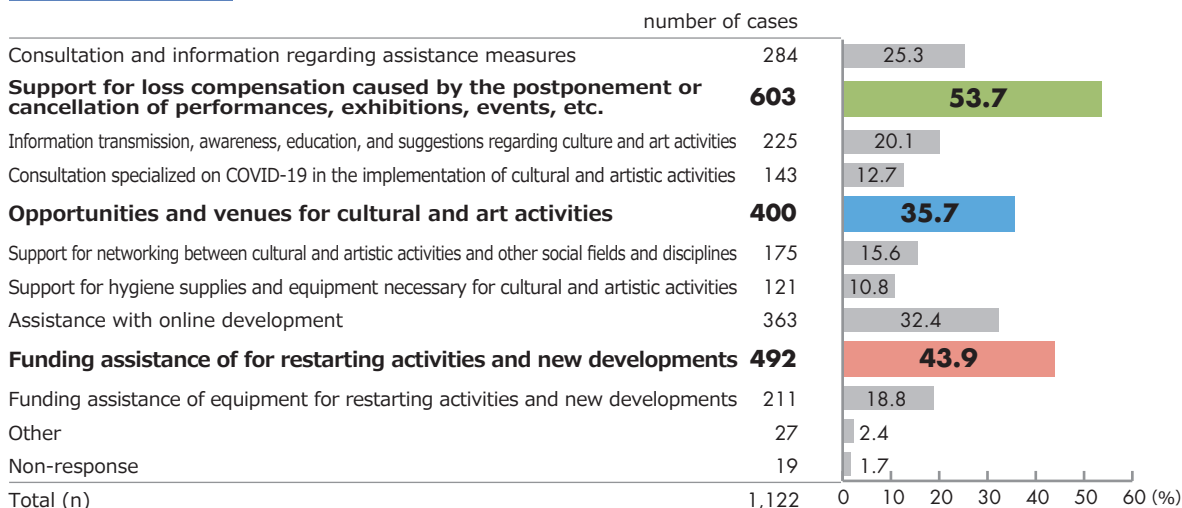


KEY POINT 3 Necessary Support for Culture and Art Activities

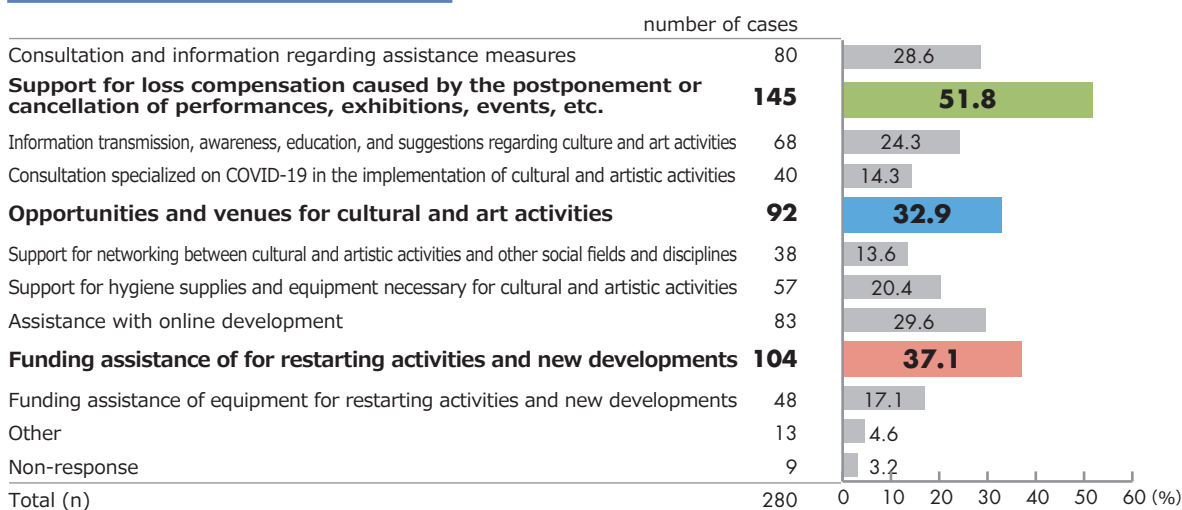
“Loss compensation” was the most common response when respondents were asked what assistance they required (individuals: 53.7%; organizations/businesses: 51.8%). Other common responses were “Funding assistance for restarting activities and new developments” (43.9%; 37.1%), “Opportunities and venues for cultural and art activities” (35.7%; 32.9%), and “Assistance with online development” (32.4%; 29.6%). Many responded that they would like “Consultation and information regarding assistance measures,” as well as “Information transmission, awareness, education, and suggestions regarding culture and art activities,” showing the need for a comprehensive range of support.

Necessary support (max. 3)

individuals



Organizations/Businesses



KEY POINT 4 Free Comments

In the free comments section, although many respondents wrote that the Emergency Incentive Grant would support the continuation of their activities, many were still facing severe difficulties, showing that continued support and improved environments will be key.

Current Situation

I think it isn't only us performers, but everyone involved in theater, such as stagehands, that have no income. If stagehands, lighting staff, and sound technicians... all leave, it will have serious effects on the future of our theatrical activities. (Traditional performing arts/Artist, creator)

It's difficult to see what role art plays during this COVID-19 pandemic. (Lifestyle culture/Artist, creator)

As a creator living in Kyoto, I could apply for the incentive with peace of mind. Compared to the other special cash payments, the process was much smoother. (Fine Art/Artist, creator)

I can only be thankful for this incentive from Kyoto City. Even though I'm struggling to make a living, support such as this motivates me to keep creating. (Fine Art/Artist, creator)

There is only so much you can do with online singing and piano lessons because of sound limitations, so I'm currently looking at new styles and new ways of teaching. (Music/Educator, researcher)

There is so much information, such as that on new support measures and new trends, that I can't take it all in. I don't know what is right. (Fine Art/planner, producer)

Due to the very nature of theater, we can't create if people aren't there to see it, and so we're currently at a standstill. We are, however, trying to look for new ways of doing things. (Theater, dance/Facility manager)

Since April, sales have decreased by more than 95% compared to last year. I'm not sure the company can survive if things stay as they are. (Design, architecture, fashion/Engineer)

Support Measures

As a whole, the industry needs some sort of support system or safety net. (Traditional performing arts/Artist, creator)

We need opportunities to learn more about IT so that we can communicate information online. (Music/Artist, creator)

It would be nice to have a consultation counter that can connect us with the appropriate specialists or departments. (Art/Facility manager)

I'd like the city to open up spaces for performance and training. (Theater, dance/Artist, creator)

The Kyoto City Cultural Arts Activity Emergency Incentive Grant is a fantastic system. I'd really like the city to keep an eye on the current circumstances, and continue their support as and when required. (Theater, dance/Artist, creator)

I think it's important to create an environment in which, during emergencies, artists can earn enough income through online events. I'm sure that sort of support would help everyone concerned. (Music/Artist, creator)

It would be great to have an online platform through which we could exchange information and discuss new plans. (Traditional performing arts/Artist, creator)

As a preventative measure, I would like there to be numerical information provided by specialists that clarifies how many people can gather at an event, what distance there should be between individuals, and other countermeasures. (Traditional performing arts/Artist, creator)

Times when we can't do what we have always done are opportunities for us to try something new. We need financial support for new activities and support to find new ways of expression. We also need to share information about presentation and creation. I hope there will be a sustainable platform for us to continue creating a chain of good ideas. (Theater, dance/Artist, creator)

Huge losses are incurred when economic, educational, cultural and other social activities are brought to a standstill, and it is times like these that we require support from the local government. Kyoto has a wealth of globally famous cultural assets, and protecting these should be one of the city's key undertakings. ...Now is the time to protect Kyoto's culture. We look forward to the city's support, and will do our utmost with the support we receive. (Theater/planner, producer)

Other

Perhaps there will be increased calls for compensation agreements among artistic, technical, and management staff who need to carry out field work and prepare for events. (Fine Art/planner, producer)

A regular employment system that supports people continuing to work in the traditional performing arts would be great for the future. (Traditional performing arts/Educator, researcher)

When artistic activities are put to a standstill like they are now, the feeling of despair lowers all motivation to create. An uncertain future also creates a sense of helplessness. Interest from local communities is what supports us, so it'd be great to have advertising and communication methods that are easy for everyone to comprehend. (Literature/Educator, researcher)

It is fantastic that the local government has taken measures to support culture and the arts through this Emergency Incentive Grant. It makes me proud to be a citizen of Kyoto. (Lifestyle culture, national entertainment/Educator, researcher)

If ballet, dance, theater, and opera events don't restart, even if there are performers available, the support staff industry that is key to these types of events will go to ruin. (Design, architecture, fashion/Engineer)

Private organizations that don't have legal status have almost no COVID-related support available to them. This is something that needs to be rectified. (Film, manga, media art/planner, producer)



**Thank you for
your cooperation for our survey**

Contact

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