



AVALON FOUNDATION

March 12, 2020

Dear Friends,

When I wrote to you just a few days ago with measures that the Avalon was taking to try and protect its patrons, artists, staff and volunteers from COVID-19, I believed we were taking reasonable action. Based on communications with public health officials, I no longer believe that the proposed steps are sufficient. **We have made the very difficult decision to close the Avalon Foundation effective tomorrow, March 13 and cancel all programming through April 24.**

While our initial plan of having Stoltz Listening Room performances in the Theatre would provide patrons with the opportunity to practice social distancing to some degree, it sends a message that all is well and that consuming our programming is a worthwhile risk. I now believe it is in the community's best interest for everyone to limit social interaction as much as possible. As the largest arts non-profit on Maryland's Eastern Shore we know that we are leaders and we need to do what is right regardless of the financial impact on the Foundation. We certainly hope that by taking this bold step we are doing our part in reducing the impact of the anticipated spike in illnesses. We also hope that the move both motivates everyone to take the threat seriously and builds confidence among our patrons that we will always act with their wellbeing in mind.

We will make decisions regarding performances and events beyond April 24 by April 10. Over the next week we will be working to reschedule performances and refund tickets. **Please be patient with us as unwinding many thousands of dollars in sales will take us some time.** We are encouraging our staff to work remotely as much as possible but will continue to film local government meetings and other tasks essential to the health and safety of this community.

Obviously this decision will put a substantial strain on the Foundation and its staff. If you have contributed to support the work of the Avalon Foundation, please renew your contribution when the time comes. If you have never donated before consider becoming a supporter.

I encourage everyone to listen to a lot of music, take in the beauty of the artwork that you have in your home, be kind to one another and please wash your hands. As before, I promise to be in touch about any additional changes to programming. I look forward to a time when the work of the Avalon Foundation can gather the community together in joyous celebration again.

Be well,

Alexander M. Bond
President & CEO

***This is the work of the
Avalon Foundation:***

Arts Education

Arts In Easton
Banner Program

Children's Programming

Cinema by Starlight
Outdoor Movies

Comedy

Community Productions

Dance

Easton 4th of July
Celebration & Carnival

Easton Farmers Market

Film, Theatre &
Music Camps

Lectures

Live Music

Movies

Multicultural Festival

Passport to the Arts
Community Calendar

Plein Air-Easton!
Competition & Arts Festival

MCTV Channel 15
Public Access Television

Outdoor Summer
Concert Series

Theatre

Workshops

And more!