The Creative Sector and Covid-19 Relief: July 2020
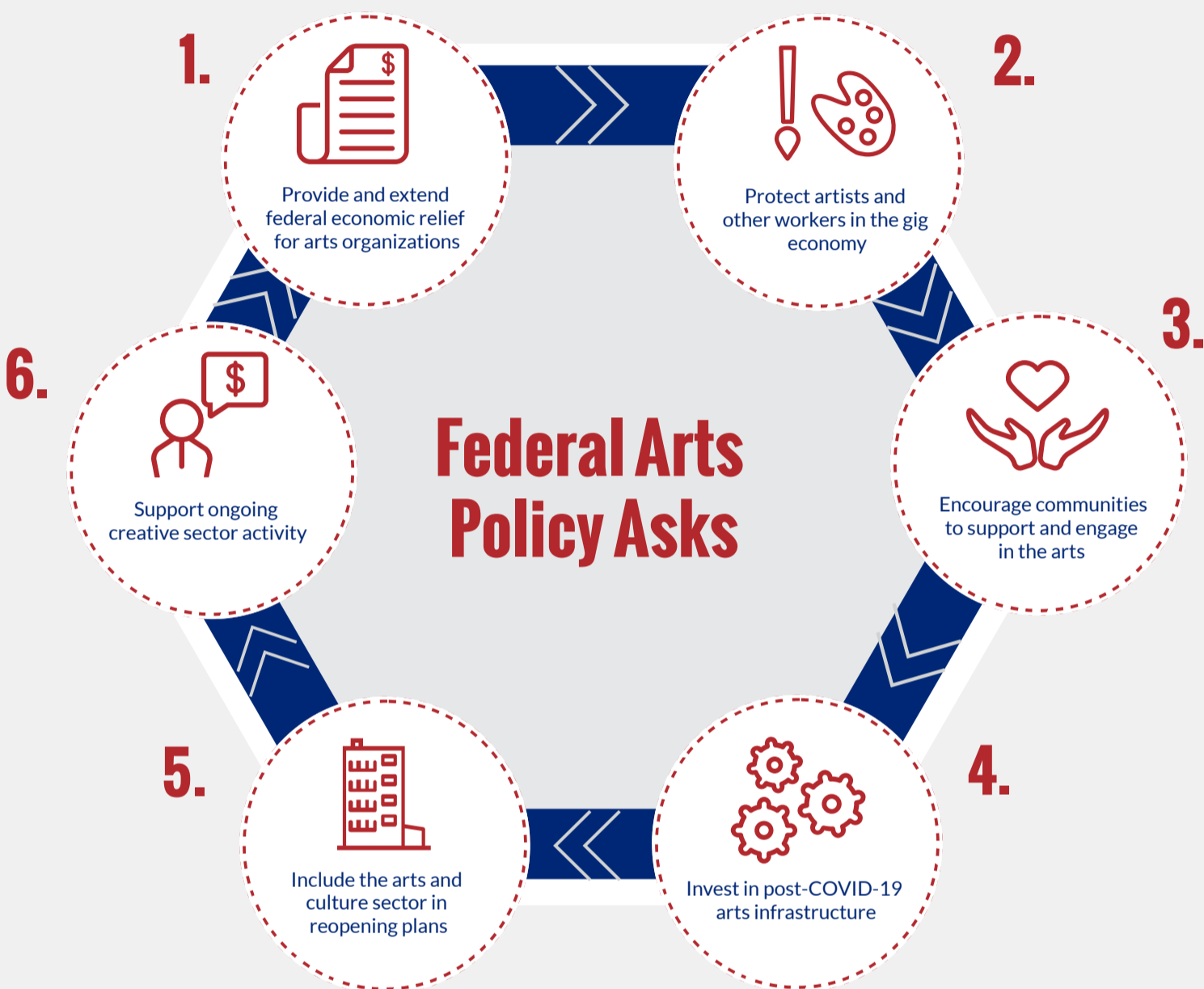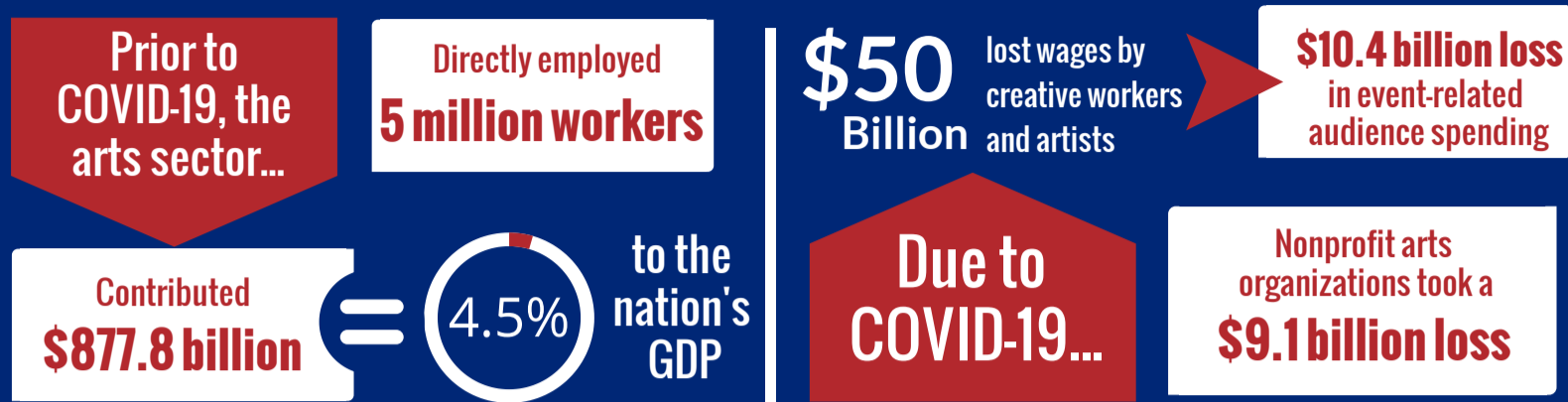
AMERICANS for the ARTS

Arts organizations, artists, and the broader creative workforce are vital contributors to the nonprofit sector, are essential to the economy, vitality, and well-being of the communities they serve, and they must be supported by all forms of pandemic relief.

Prior to COVID-19, the arts sector...

Directly employed **5 million workers**

Contributed **$877.8 billion** = **4.5%** to the nation's GDP

$50 Billion lost wages by creative workers and artists

$10.4 billion loss in event-related audience spending

Due to COVID-19...

Nonprofit arts organizations took a **$9.1 billion loss**

Federal Arts Policy Asks

1. Provide and extend federal economic relief for arts organizations

2. Protect artists and other workers in the gig economy

3. Encourage communities to support and engage in the arts

4. Invest in post-COVID-19 arts infrastructure

5. Include the arts and culture sector in reopening plans

6. Support ongoing creative sector activity

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1. Provide and extend economic relief

- Expand, extend, and recapitalize **Payment Protection Program (PPP)** resources
- Provide nonprofits with loan forgiveness through the **Main Street Lending Program** and **Economic Stabilization Fund**
- Fully fund the **Economic Injury Disaster Program**

2. Protect artists and other workers

- Expand the **duration of pandemic unemployment benefits**
- **Expand access to health coverage and care f**or those with atypical employment structures
- Provide assistance for single- and multi-employer pension funds to protect artists' retirement security

3. Encourage community arts support

- Boost charitable giving by **removing the $300 cap** on above-the-line tax incentives for non-itemizers
- Maintain the CARES Act removal of Adjusted Gross Income limitation on deducting donations
- Adopt an **emergency broadband benefit** to foster equitable participation in online cultural activities

4. Invest in safe arts infrastructure

- **Provide eligibility for arts facilities in infrastructure investments t**o renovate, refurbish, and adapt to post-COVID-19 public health protocols.
- **Use arts-based approaches to public works** and community development initiatives

5. Include the arts in reopening plans

- Include the arts sector in consideration of **public health** and **workplace safety** policies
- Ensure the **arts are considered in business interruption insurance** and **liability policy** discussions

6. Keep supporting the creative sector

- Approve **substantial funding for the NEA, NEH, and IMLS** as they administer COVID-19 relief
- Bolster **federal funding for arts education**
- Integrate provisions from the CREATE (S. 650) and PLACE (S.3232) Acts to boost creative economy workforce

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