



4 May 2020

Dear Fellows, Students, Faculty and Patrons of the Fine Arts Work Center,

I often wonder these days about how each of us will look back and define this pandemic experience – in our art and writing, in the stories we pass on to young children. On behalf of all of us at the Work Center, I extend our heartfelt support to any of you who may be directly affected by the novel coronavirus. It seems endlessly on our minds, and we hope for your health and well-being throughout these difficult times.

The world we live in today is not the world we lived in a few months ago, and while we are fortunate to be located in Massachusetts where we have access to a deep bench of public health scientists and practitioners, the challenge remains: to address head on all the unknowns of how our lives and communities will be adapting in the months ahead.

Our question first and foremost has been how the Work Center can safely and securely address its mission to serve our community – to inspire and transform, both personally and artistically, in the heart of the historic art colony of Provincetown and beyond. We have concluded that for the safety and well-being of all, and in the face of so many uncertainties, there is no choice but to **postpone our entire 2020 Summer Program and gather again in the summer of 2021.**

This decision has been made with deep concern as we balance the significant loss of your valued experiences on-site and the decisive loss of the Summer Program’s financial support of the Work Center’s storied Fellowship Program.

While this is very disappointing, the good news is that nearly all the faculty have graciously and enthusiastically agreed to adjust schedules and join us for the summer of 2021. And for this we are deeply grateful.

We are also pleased to let you know that **24PearlStreet**, our online writing program, will continue as planned with expanded workshops and some real time experiences. You’ll see that many of our summer courses have been developed around the theme of uncertainty. These workshops aim to help us write *because of this moment*, not in spite of it. Simply put, we believe that profoundly hopeful and inspiring communities can thrive online. If that is the kind of community you and your writing are hungry for, we hope you will join us this summer. Details can be found at FAWC.ORG/24.

And we will stay connected in other ways too. Watch for future communications about virtual conversations with many of our Fellow and faculty poets, writers and artists who will be engaging in conversations with you from their homes and studios.

I wish to thank members of the community who have already reached out to offer words of support and financial assistance. Working together we will evolve and innovate. We will be stronger.

Please visit our **Giving** page – FAWC.ORG/GIVING – if you can make a special gift to help us weather this unprecedented storm. And please reach out to me directly if you have personal thoughts about how you’d like to help in this way. Your ongoing support and encouragement is deeply appreciated.

In that regard, I want to identify issues that may impact you and the charities you support: the first federal stimulus package called CARES, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act encourages charitable giving in 2020.

1. The CARES Act includes two tax provisions that reward people who donate to charity. Taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions will be able to claim a charitable deduction of up to \$300 per taxpayer (\$600 for a married couple) for cash donations made in 2020. This means that you could add an additional \$300 to your charity budget this year, recover a portion of it in tax savings, and help the Work Center address extraordinary current needs. A donation to a donor advised fund (DAF) does not qualify for this new deduction.
2. For taxpayers who will itemize on their 2020 return, the 60% of adjusted gross income limit that normally applies to cash contributions is waived. That means you can deduct more of your charitable cash contributions this year, up to 100%. Again, a donation to a donor advised fund (DAF) does not qualify for this new deduction. Additionally, in recognition of the stock market downturn and to avoid selling investments at a loss, the hefty Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) penalty has been waived in 2020 for most donors, 72 years old or older. (The SECURE Act in Dec. 2019 pushed back the age to 72 from 70½.) Minimum distributions will not be required to be taken from IRAs, 401(k)s, 403(b)s or other tax deferred retirement plans in 2020 to allow time for these funds to recover. Individuals are still able to direct up to \$100,000 from their IRAs to charities.

As always, please consult your financial professionals for advice specific to you.

Our administrative offices and public areas remain closed indefinitely, but our staff continue to work from their homes to ensure their safety and health, as well as the safety of the Work Center environment. Please reach out to us through email or leave a voice mail message if you have any questions – we will get back to you as soon as we can. In the meantime, we will follow the re-opening guidelines as advised by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Town of Provincetown.

Until we can meet again, please be well and remain safe. We wish the very best to all of you, your families, friends and everything you hold dear.

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CREATIVITY THRIVES HERE

The Fine Arts Work Center is an equal opportunity provider and employer. The Work Center facilities are accessible to people with disabilities.

