

AMERICA BELIEVES ONE VOICE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Reason the ScholarshipAudition.com Journey with the SBA Must Be Told

(Taken from the Full Report to Our Congressional Representatives)

In December of 2020, within the first week of the application portal for the Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan being opened ScholarshipAuditions.com submitted our application, which brought hope to our people.

The Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loan (SBA EIDL) process has taken much longer than ever anticipated. During this time, we've lost two different groups of employees, present employees have not been paid in months, and most creditors have graciously worked with us. We have kept the faith and our commitment to help America's performing arts students find their right collegiate fit, understand how to walk through the application, audition, and scholarship procurement path, and continue to provide our services to underserved students and their families at no cost to them. Why? Because America needs these young people and their creative talents to enrich the lives of all Americans.

But our time is running out for being able to provide this vital service and keep an innovative business open. And we are in desperate need of the diligent and swift efforts of individuals such as yourself to help us move forward and regain the path to success. Your assistance is more than greatly appreciated. We will use these funds wisely and with the same commitment we've demonstrated since opening our doors to facilitate the American dream of a higher education for many deserving students. This is our mission and faithful commitment.

On April 28, 2021, the U.S. Congress and the President's Administration made a promise to the American people in the Presidential Address to a Joint Session of Congress when President Biden spoke the following words:

"Tonight, I come to talk about crisis and opportunity, about rebuilding the nation, revitalizing our democracy, and winning the future of America.
I stand here tonight, one day shy of the 100th day of my administration – 100 days since I took the oath of office and lifted my hand off our family Bible and inherited a nation that was in crisis. The worst pandemic in a century. The worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. The worst attack on our democracy since the Civil War.
Now, after just 100 days, I can report to the nation: America is on the move again – turning peril into possibility, crisis to opportunity, setbacks into strengths.
We all know life can knock us down. But in America, we never, ever, ever stay down. Americans always get up. Today, that's what we are doing: America is rising anew, choosing hope over fear, truth over lies, and light over darkness.
After 100 days of rescue and renewal, America is ready for takeoff, in my view. We're working again, dreaming again, discovering again, and leading the world again. We have shown each other and the world that there's no quit in America – none!
One hundred days ago, America's house was on fire. We had to act. And thanks to the extraordinary leadership of Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, and the overwhelming support of the American people – Democrats, Independents, and Republicans – we did act.
Together we passed the American Rescue Plan, one of the most consequential rescue packages in American history. We're already seeing the results. . ."

I believe in the character of the American people but for our Company, and for the people living in the zip code where our business is located, I must share that these words have not proven true. Our business is located in the 37207-zip code in Nashville, Tennessee, with a racial makeup of 67.4% African American, 20.7% White, 8.4% Hispanic, and 3.5% Other Race. The median household income is \$38,000, and 25.4% are presently unemployed. The 37207-zip code is classified as "Distressed," with a poverty rate of 28% (the national average is 13.9%). [Reference: most recent Economic Innovation Group Distressed Communities Index – see Appendix F, pages 293- 296] Our experience to date with the Small Business Administration strongly indicates to us that we are not considered to be a part of the "America ready for takeoff."

Numerous businesses in the immediate area of our Company have closed in the last nine months. One local business owner shared with me that he did not have the expertise to understand the SBA or work through all their rules and regulations. He did not have the money to hire an accounting firm to do it for him so he was having to close his doors. The truth is, our Company is presently experiencing the same challenges that this restaurant owner experienced. But as President Biden expressed, our Company is a part of the no-quit Americans. And we are not going to quit until we have fully expressed our journey with the Small Business Administration in pursuit of the EIDL funding. It is our goal that our U.S. Senators from Tennessee, our House of Representative for the 5th District of Tennessee, the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, the U.S. House Committee on Small Business, and the President of the United States hear the challenges and frustrations in our journey to receiving an EID Loan. Action must be taken for a more transparent interaction between the Small Business Administration and the American small businesses it is commissioned to serve.

Thus, we are believing that our voice will be heard and faithful serving representatives will address the following:

- Our Company's challenges and frustrations with the interactions and policies of the Small Business Administration, hoping the challenges and frustrations we've experienced will be met with a transforming overhaul for the good of all small businesses across America. These changes can only come through the representatives of the American people serving in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives, especially those serving on the U.S. Senate's Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship and the U.S. House Committee on Small Business.
- Our Company's worthiness to secure an EID Loan.
- Our Company's mission and business to be recognized for the good it is doing for the young performing arts students in America.
- To seek the assistance of our representatives to find other sources of funding to help young entrepreneurial companies like ours (specifically ours) to get back on their financial footing following this devastating pandemic. We humbly and respectfully do this so we can securely and whole-heartily return to fulfilling our Company's mission while knowing we've spoken the truth in a worthy manner which will enlighten individuals elected and committed to serving the American people with integrity and positive purposeful results.