

I am writing to you today from the perspective of the boutique fitness studios. My studio, StarCycle Portland, opened on January 3, 2019. We opened to a beautiful community here in NE Portland, ready to connect and move and grow together. My husband and I put out finances and dreams into creating a space that would be welcoming to all. We met so many people, heard so many stories and changed so many lives. The emails and notes I have received are too numerous to count at this point. We truly began making a difference in our community and we were grateful to have that opportunity. Fourteen months later we were closed (March 16) due to Covid 19. We navigated each week as it arrived. Through the initial stages of the pandemic, we lost over 56% of our active membership. As months drug on, we lost a total of 80%. We are currently located in Multnomah County, one of the hardest hit areas in the state of Oregon. As Governor Brown slowly began opening gyms in June, I opted to support the community and stay closed. Truly though, our community was not ready to come back. During our extended closure, we were broken into and our computers were stolen. This was such a blow to our hearts and souls but we pushed forward. We reopened in the beginning of October to a small group and were closed 6 weeks later under the new Covid guidelines. This all but ended our business. Thankfully, our community stepped up and purchased retail and class packages. This did not do much, but it showed a trust and belief in us that we will always be touched by. I'd like to point out that during this entire pandemic, I have applied for 7 grants at the state, city and county level. I have been turned down each time. I had hope when our Governor set aside 30M to support businesses during the second closure. Unfortunately, I was not chosen as a recipient of any of them. I have been hanging on by a thread without any support from the state. I have never felt such a deep level of dismay or sadness, believing that we will not recover from this. I only have so many more resources to help me get through this.

Thank you for listening to a small part of what my story has been over the last year. I truly hope I can find support at the government level to continue to operate. I hope that the Governor can change her narrative when she gets on the microphone, and encourages people to return. NE Portland really listens to her guidance.

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S T A R C Y C L E

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