

I am writing to urge support for aiding Salem Cinema and other locally owned and operated movie theaters to receive funds to help them recover from the impact of a total shutdown during the pandemic. Movie theaters have been overlooked during this year despite huge losses due to the fact that they had to totally shut down - unlike other many other impacted businesses that could remain in partial operation. Salem Cinema is a unique and beloved institution in our community and there is nothing else like it in our area. The staff and owner have struggled to keep the business alive, but there are fixed expenses like rent, utilities, etc. that require expenditures whether people can attend movies or not. I hope that you will consider this in the apportionment of funds. The Salem Cinema's survival means that people across our area will continue to be able to see films and documentaries that are difficult or impossible to see elsewhere. It will also insure that the community spirit of this institution survives and it will preserve jobs related to the theater. Please allocate money to help our local theater survive!