

The COVID19 crisis has magnified social inequalities on a vast scale. The impact will be acutely felt in cities and urban districts, and Bristol – a city that had more than 40 distinct neighbourhoods ranked as some of the most deprived in England prior to the pandemic - is no exception.

In the coming months of serious economic hardship, the limited nature of much centralised arts funding and/or governmental support for the freelance sector, combined with the impossible position of those entering the arts, working in live events or arts production will become both clear and acute.

As a result, the transmission belt between the fiercely independent arts and music culture that Bristol is internationally synonymous with, and the next generation of independent artists, performers, musicians, producers, technicians, and venue operators – especially from our most deprived districts – will be cut; resulting in a lost generation of talent, direction and vocation. As artists, creatives and community projects, we now believe an emergency solution lies in the establishment of a city-wide Business Improvement District, with the newly formed Bristol United Guild working as advisory body to quickly identify recipient spaces, places, individuals, bodies, groups and projects.

In taking this step, commercial identities who benefit extensively from what Bristol has to offer and who have seen their operations expand positively during the pandemic period, can help to ensure that we do not lose an entire generation of citizen talent and human potential to the aftermath of the COVID 19 pandemic. We believe this investment is now vital.

Signed:

Geoff Barrow (Portishead)

Cargo Collective

Daniel Day Lewis

Robert Del Naja (Massive Attack)

Liz Fraser

Idles Band

Krust

Grant Marshall (Massive Attack)

Stephen Merchant

Ray Mighty (Smith & Mighty)

Jen Reid

Roni Size

Martina Topley Bird

Tricky

Adrian Utley (Portishead)

Maisie Williams

**BRISTOL
UNITED
GUILD.**

