

## Report of Measurement of Mission Compliance in 2021-22

### Mission Statement:

*The Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza Performing Arts Center Corporation at “The Egg” will present quality performances, accessible to all citizens of New York State, highlighting the unique and extraordinary artists from New York State, across the country and around the globe. Through partnerships and collaborations, the Corporation will present quality performances, spotlight emerging artists, foster relationships with resident companies, enhance activities in cultural and arts education, while remaining accountable to its public funds investment.*

In fiscal year 2021-22, The Egg was closed to the public from April 1 through mid-August.

The Center reopened in August 2021 following its closure in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the extended closure, there were unanticipated costs for reopening the theaters related to the repair and/or replacement of components of various technical systems and related personnel to facilitate.

The Center resumed programming and accepting rentals from other organizations seeking to utilize the theatres for their performances. Attendance at the Center’s presentations decreased significantly compared to prior years, likely due to the public’s concern for gathering in indoor spaces. In addition, due to the ongoing health safety concerns caused by the COVID-19 variants, the majority of the organizational meetings typically held in the facility’s spaces were cancelled or postponed. These factors contributed to a substantial decrease in earned revenue.

The Center extended its pandemic related furloughs into the 2021-22 fiscal year, with the majority of the staff returning in April and May, 2021. Executive director Peter Lesser returned to the payroll in late July, 2021. The furloughs allowed the Center to save on salaries, NYS retirement payments and other employee benefits. Mr. Lesser announced his retirement as executive director in January and was authorized by the board of directors to continue working remotely until a new director was in place. The extended search process necessitated engaging the services of a presenter representative to be on site for certain performances.

The organization applied for, and received funds through the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program which, along with the its appropriation from the State of New York and the resumption of contracted services income enabled the Center to compensate for shortfalls due to the decrease in attendance and theater rentals and therefore remain on solid financial ground.