Dear friends of FAA,

We are now entering our fourth month since Governor DeWine ordered schools and many other businesses to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In those months, our wonderful faculty and students have shown exemplary patience and resilience moving to an “at home” model. Through it all, our goal has been to keep everyone safe but deliver the best arts instruction we could given the limitations.

As many businesses, parks, and dance studios have reopened, we have been asked many times when FAA will reopen. As a multi-arts facility, the regulations regarding dance studios, movie theaters, etc. have implications but do not fully address the challenge that organizations like FAA have to consider. In addition, we recently surveyed our parents, students, faculty, and patrons and found very diverse levels of comfort in returning physically to FAA.

So how do we move forward with safety and continued excellence in arts education in mind?

A few weeks ago, I joined with leaders from multi-arts organizations like ours across the state in drafting reopening guidelines to submit to Governor DeWine for approval. We are consulting with medical professionals to ensure the best approach. Our hope is that these guidelines will be approved soon so each of us can allow most of our programming to return by fall.

In anticipation of that approval, we are working on a plan that will allow students to return to FAA and take their classes and lessons on site or continue to take them whenever possible at home. Using a blended approach, faculty will most often teach the same class to those present and at home at the same time. We are also working on a similar approach to our theatre performances.

As you can imagine, this is a huge undertaking with many moving parts. Yet, we remain convinced that it serves the needs of most individuals who look at FAA as their arts community until the pandemic passes.

As we finalize our plans and wait for state approval, I hope you will continue to stay involved and support this wonderful organization. With our new Lake Erie College partnership and other continued faculty additions and curricular improvements, we are continuing to make FAA the best place to be inspired through the arts. Look for continued updates throughout the summer and please contact us with any questions.

Thanks for continuing to take this journey with us!

Paul Holm
CEO