

FAQs for GOPAR

1. Q: What does GOPAR stand for?

A: Greater Orlando Performing Arts Relief

2. Q: What is GOPAR's mission?

A: To provide easy-access assistance - in times of crisis - to individuals in the Greater Orlando area who typically derive income from the performing arts and/or theme park entertainment sectors. To be sensitive to each individual's unique circumstances and to offer a holistic approach toward achieving long term solutions for financial, physical, and emotional well-being.

3. Q: How did GOPAR start?

A: A response by local performing arts leaders to the pandemic that left all performing artists -- as well as those that design, produce and tech live concerts, performances and events -- out of work in an unprecedented and extended industry shutdown.

4. Q: Who is involved in GOPAR?

A: (See member list on GOPAR.org)

5. Q: How much are Memberships?

A: During 2020 memberships are free. At the appropriate point in 2021 (based on US economy), individual, non-profit and corporate rates will be set. The goal is affordability and participation.

6. Q: Who qualifies for assistance?

A: Member Applicants need to have derived income from the performing arts industry - onstage or offstage - in the past 2 years, and be current residents of Lake, Orange, Seminole, Volusia, Osceola, or Polk Counties.

7. Q: What Services are available through GOPAR?

A: Initially, GOPAR has partnered with St. Luke's UMC to provide a wide array of support services to those experiencing hardship, which may include cash assistance, social services referrals, and counseling. St Lukes has a well established non-profit support system and is well-known as a welcoming home to all artists and the entertainment community. Each applicant's situation is confidentially evaluated through a phone assessment with trained support personnel. The goal is to offer a holistic, whole-person support, with the goal of achieving long-term financial stability and emotional well being.

8. Q: How do individuals apply for assistance?

A: Go to GOPAR.org and fill out a very brief online application.

9. **Q: How does GOPAR differ from other local organizations that assist the arts? (such as United Arts of Central Florida)?**
A: GOPAR was created to help the individual artist, not the companies that employ them.
10. **Q: Who is in charge of GOPAR? (Who makes decisions?)**
A: A founding, temporarily governing body of 12 arts professionals is acting on behalf of the greater Orlando arts leadership to establish this organization to recognize and support individual onstage/backstage craftsmen in the performing arts.
11. **Q: How is GOPAR funded?**
A: GOPAR will be funded by individual/corporate direct donations, and supportive fundraisers both direct (i.e. online Talent Showcase) and indirect (i.e. member theatre hosts annual fundraiser with partial proceeds to GOPAR.)
12. **Q: Who is handling the money?**
A: Financial assistance will be disbursed through St Luke's in the form of payments for approved, specific bills or expenses. This is overseen in coordination with the organizing GOPAR body. All donations are tax deductible.
13. **Q: Why is this being run through St. Lukes / (a church)?**
A: St Lukes has a well-established non-profit support system and is well-known as a welcoming home to all artists across the entertainment community. St. Luke's has an established track record for helping non-profit service organizations in the early organizing stages, and then spinning them off to be independent 501 C-3 organizations when the time is right.

FUTURE GOALS

14. **Q: What are the future goals of GOPAR?**
A: To become its own 501c3 and provide advocacy and develop programs that serve Central Florida professionals working in the arts.
15. **Q: What are possible future programs?**
A: Initial ideas, based on needs, include exploring the possibility of a group health insurance collective with the pool of participants being members of the Central Florida arts community; and, addressing the affordable housing crisis through rent controlled apartments for our Artistic community. Long range, the membership base that (similar to AARP), develops purchasing power as a collective to provide discounts across the spectrum of goods and services.

16. Q: What advocacy needs would GOPAR address? Why is advocacy needed?

A: Currently there is no central point for roster, census, survey or even basic communication to the broader arts and entertainment community of Central Florida, known to be one of the largest in the country. Advocacy may develop around arts community support such as housing (personal) and rents (venues); pro-arts local policies and incentives; and, expanded corporate and government grantmaking to unleash the full potential of artistic expression and production in the region, driving both arts tourism and critical acclaim.

17. Q: How does GOPAR serve or Give back? (versus just be served)

A: The primary mission of GOPAR is sustaining arts professionals in times of need. Whenever possible, GOPAR will facilitate community enrichment with the cooperative membership's base of uniquely skilled individuals through their volunteerism and participation.