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Hollywood Strikes Pose a Credit Risk for \$113 Million Muni Deal.

- Oscars ceremony is major source of revenue to repay the debt
- · Moody's grades deal 2 steps below top rank with stable outlook

Municipal-bond investors have to assess an unusual risk as part of a \$113 million bond offering next week: The historic strikes that are paralyzing business for much of Hollywood.

The seller of the debt, a group affiliated with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, is familiar to muni-market participants because it has issued bonds several times for its Los Angeles museum, which opened in 2021.

However, this offering, which will refinance old, higher interest-rate debt, comes against a troubled backdrop for the industry. The Writers Guild of America went on strike May 2, seeking higher pay and other changes amid the rise of streaming TV and artificial intelligence. The strike, coupled with one by screen actors that began in July, has largely halted production of new films and scripted TV shows.

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