



Oregon State Legislature Joint Ways & Means Committee
Testimony for District 5 — April 24, 2021

Dear Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner Hayward and Rayfield; Co-Vice Chairs Girod, Gomberg and Smith, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Dorcas Holzapfel and I live in Otis. I am providing testimony to you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Lincoln City Cultural Center. As you consider how to balance the state budget and use federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, I urge you to prioritize the shovel-ready infrastructure and capital construction projects that were delayed last year when lottery bond sales were cancelled. In particular, please prioritize projects in District 5.

This District, especially the Oregon Coast, has been disproportionately hit by both COVID 19 restrictions and the Labor Day Echo Mountain Fire. Infrastructure projects would help our economy, increase the capacity of our arts businesses and support our tourism industry. The Board of Directors and I especially implore you to fund the Lincoln City Cultural Center Plaza project, which will transform the outdoor space around the historic Delake School into a pedestrian-friendly attraction for residents and visitors to enjoy. The redesigned traffic plan features new parking areas with islands, adequate lighting for evening safety and other upgrades required by city code. It will be a showplace of community pride and energy. In addition, this project would provide several immediate benefits to our community:

- Economic impact: Through its vendor amenities and celebratory design, this upgrade will increase the capacity of hundreds of small businesses like farmers, jewelry makers, food carts and bakers. It will make their goods more accessible to more people, for more months of the year.
- Arts and Culture Impact: This project would enable more people to enjoy the benefits of arts, culture and civic engagement, regardless of their age, mobility or income level through the project's dedication to universal access and cultural equity. The grounds will not only be useful, but an artistic and beautiful engine for year-round, arts-based economic vitality.
- Tourism Impact: More than 8.8 million cars drive by the Lincoln City Cultural Center along Highway 101 annually. Upgrades to the grounds will provide an artistic magnet and an accessible destination, inviting visitors to partake in the arts and culture programs found within.
- Community Impact: Retirement income is one of the largest industries in our community. A thriving cultural arts center, easily accessible in the heart of town on Hwy. 101, will make Lincoln City an even more attractive retirement destination.

The Board of Directors encourages you to invest in local shovel-ready projects that will have wide ranging impacts to this community. Thanks to the ongoing success of our Invest in Inspiration capital campaign, we have raised the funds from our community to begin Phase 1. With the restored \$1.8 million from the State, we can prepare to implement Phase 2, finishing the project by the end of 2023.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dorcas Holzapfel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dorcas Holzapfel, Chair
Adrienne Greene, Vice Chair
Binaya Dangol, Secretary
Dennis Civiello, Treasurer
Greg Berton, Past Chair
Lincoln City Cultural Center Board of Directors