

The John G. Shedd Institute for the Arts

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April 22, 2021

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Community Relations
Lynnea Barry
Corporate Relations
Jinjoo Poynter
Stewardship Assistant

PERFORMANCE

Tony Roethler
Performance Services
Kristin Combs
Artistic Administrator
Nick Presente
Technical Services

EDUCATION

Heidi Turnquist
Director of Education

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Shannon Schmitt
Patron Services and
Ticket Office Manager
Bowen Culver
Event and Hospitality Coordinator
Jared Bobak
Kelli Langlands
Ticket Office Assistants

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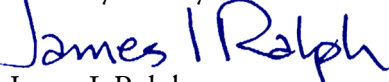
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon Legislature
Salem, Oregon

Dear Co-chair Johnson, Co-chair Steiner-Hayward, Co-chair Rayfield
and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I am writing today to request your positive consideration of The John G. Shedd Institute for the Arts' application for \$1.6 million in capital construction lottery funding in support of its \$5.9 million remodel of the northeast quadrant of our 70,000 sq. ft. building in downtown Eugene, the 4th phase of a 9-year remodel campaign to complete The Shedd's transformation from an aging church to a fully-functional, fully accessible community cultural and educational center.

Over the past 5 years we have completed 3/5th of this remodel at a cost of just over \$10 million. The remodel of the NE quadrant will be a major step towards campaign completion and will resolve completely our building's serious accessibility issues for everyone who uses The Shedd. It is a lovely building that is warm and inviting to students, concert patrons, artists, faculty, and community users of all ages and interests; but it is really tough for the many mobility-challenged people we serve to get into it and move around in it! We partially solved this problem when we moved into the building in 2002 by installing an elevator in the middle of the building so that it was at least possible for a person who couldn't climb stairs to get to every floor...IF they got into the building from its one non-stairs door at the south of the building, almost as far away from our parking lot as can be and almost as far from our ticket office and music school reception area. Our proposed NE remodel will create a phenomenal accessible entrance immediately off our parking lot north of our building; a second, larger building elevator; the elimination of 8 flights of stairs; the reduction of 4 unique floor levels surrounding our stage, green rooms and load-in area to only 1 thus making our stage fully accessible to all performers; the creation of an equipment load-in lift; and the addition of 7,500 sq. ft. of much-needed office, community and production space which will vastly reduce the distance and difficulties that arriving visitors, especially those with mobility challenges have always had to face in getting to the Shedd ticket office, music registrar, and community services assistants.

Thank you for your consideration.



James I. Ralph
Executive Director

*The mission of The Shedd Institute is to be an education and performance center
where people find and nurture community through discovery, creation and celebration.*