

Two-minute Testimony
Ways and Means Committee

April 24, 2021

Catherine Rickbone for Oregon Cultural Advocacy Coalition

Thank you, Co-Chairs Johnson, Steiner-Hayward, Rayfield and members of the committee. For the record, my name is Catherine Rickbone, representing Oregon's Cultural Advocacy Coalition.

The Coalition includes nearly 400 cultural, historical and heritage organizations in every corner of the state from all-volunteer rural community groups, to Tribes, to nationally renowned theaters, museums and symphonies.

A signature part of CAC's work is the review and vetting of capital projects that are funded through the Cultural Resources Economic Fund and are cornerstones in many communities.

Over 40 projects were submitted and reviewed for (1) readiness, (2) community support, (3) contributions to economic development, and (4) the preservation or creation of cultural assets. Using these factors and our commitments to equity and inclusion, the Coalition recommends 11 projects, from all across the state, totaling \$9.5m in state funding.

Some requests are small enough to be funded with appropriations of lottery money, while others require proceeds from the sale of Lottery Bonds.

These projects are investments that will accelerate economic recovery and create hundreds of jobs. All projects will positively impact the lives of people in their communities and visitors.

Two projects – the Reser Center for the Arts and the Lincoln City Cultural Center – had been approved for lottery bond funding, but it was subsequently rescinded. We hope they will both be included for funding again this year.

We urge your support.

Thank you for investing in Oregon's cultural future.