



May 7, 2021

Co- Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey and Committee Members:

Thank you for your leadership and diligent work during this year's legislative session. We request your support of the 11 Capital Construction Projects that have been endorsed by the Cultural Advocacy Coalition. These projects, representing small and large organizations from around the state, are shovel-ready investments in our community spirit and in the rebirth of our region.

The Portland Art Museum is honored to be included on that list. We are seeking \$1 million from this Legislature for our Rothko Pavilion and renovation project. I arrived at the Museum in 2006, and from the very start, knew how much this project was needed. It is intended to connect our two historical, yet somewhat foreboding buildings, in order to make the Museum a more accessible, inclusive and welcoming experience for everyone.

This project has shaped by community input and has resounding endorsements from all levels of leadership, including community organizations, Portland City Council and the city's Historic Landmarks Commission. We have \$36M to raise for the capital project, which in total is an \$85 million investment in Downtown Portland. It is notable that PAM's original building was completed at the height of the depression in 1932. Just as past expansions have helped Oregon to grow and thrive, the Rothko Pavilion will also drive economic activity.

I know this committee has a responsibility to carefully decide how it allocates funding, so I want to emphasize that an additional \$1 million from the state will represent just 1.2 percent of the total cost of our project. But it is an important 1.2 percent that will leverage additional private investment.

Downtown Portland and Oregon deserves an economic – and emotional boost. After a year of separation and stasis, Oregonians want to come together. We believe this project is more important to our region's rebirth than ever. It is exactly who we are as Oregonians and exactly what we need to move forward.

Thank you for your time and support.

Brian Ferriso,

Executive Director and Chief Curator