



# culturaladvocacycoalition

## Board of Directors

Jordan Anderson, OPB

Peter Bilotta (Treasurer)  
Chamber Music Northwest

Thomas Bruner, OBT

Karie Burch  
Portland Art Museum

Adam Davis  
Oregon Humanities

Sue Dixon, Portland Opera

Scott Freck  
Eugene Symphony

Jenny Green  
Oregon Arts Commission

Cassie Greer  
Bag&Baggage Productions

Jeff Hawthorne  
City of Portland

Russell Kelban  
Oregon Symphony

Ginny Lang

Judy Margles  
Oregon Jewish Museum

Isaac Marquez (VP)  
City of Eugene

J.S. May (President)  
Artists Rep. Theatre

Crystal Meneses

Josh Neckels, Eugene Ballet

Catherine Rickbone

Ginger Savage  
Crossroads Carnegie Art

David Schmitz  
Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Jenny Stadler, PHAME

Carol Tatch, RACC

Dan Thorndike

Kerry Tymchuk, OHS

Dana Whitelaw (Secretary)  
High Desert Museum

Gayle Yamasaki  
Oregon Cultural Trust

February 4, 2022

Representative John Lively, Chairman  
House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity  
Salem, OR. 97301

**RE: HB 4040**

Dear Chairman Lively and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of over 350 nonprofit organizations and individual members of our Coalition, we write to encourage you **to invest in the continued recovery of Oregon's cultural sector through the passage of HB 4040.**

The reality of the prolonged pandemic is reframing both the importance of arts, culture, heritage and humanities, and the question of the very survival of our state's cultural assets. The funding the state and federal government has allocated in the past has been the **lifeline** that has sustained our critical infrastructure to date. The sector is still extremely fragile with over 70% of our colleagues reporting the crisis having a severe financial impact which has brought closures, layoffs, furloughs, and other cost-savings measures across the state.

We believe creativity is and will be critical for the health and recovery of all Oregonians. The cultural sector will play a large part in re-uniting our communities post-pandemic and re-building our collective spirit. Despite the challenges, our members are bravely re-imagining delivery of their artforms and working with their audiences to test new approaches. We must undergird that process with enough financial support to make survival possible.

Oregon is defined by its culture. Our members are the leaders who surface it in our communities, bring it alive and make it accessible to all. Large and small, urban and rural, tribal and indigenous – these are the roots of what it means to be an Oregonian. Please help us preserve and sustain our arts and culture infrastructure.

Sincerely,

*JS May, Board President*