

# OREGON JEWISH MUSEUM AND CENTER FOR HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

January 26, 2023

Representative Janelle Bynum  
Chairs, House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business  
Oregon Legislature

Dear Representative Janelle Bynum,

I understand that in late January or early February the \$50 million bill to support the continued recovery and reinvention of the arts and culture sector will be before the House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business.

I write now to underscore how vitally important it will be for the legislature to pass this bill. With half the funds reserved for distribution (similar to how the CARES dollars were distributed earlier through the county coalitions) and the other half earmarked for larger anchor organizations and live venues, all of us who have been struggling these past three years will have much needed opportunity for some relief.

We know that recovery is a lengthy process. Oregon has experienced some of the longest pandemic-related shutdowns and the arts/culture sector was heavily impact. At my institution, the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, we are still experiencing attendance levels at about 65% of where we were in 2019. We believe that recovery for our museums will take at least five years. Museum patrons and attendees are still slow to return to in-person gatherings; many of our exhibitions and public programs have been impacted as schedules have changed and shipping and insurance costs have risen, almost to the point of unaffordability. In addition, we have been unable to reopen our café and our museum shop

We would welcome additional recovery money to help us regain our audiences, especially youth and families and especially to be able to further our educational outreach to rural communities.

I am joined by the board and staff at OJMCHC in expressing my gratitude to you and your legislative colleagues for bringing this bill for a vote. We are all hopeful for an outcome that will allow us to enrich the lives of Oregonians everywhere.

With best regards,



Judy Margles  
Director