

# 2023-25 Endorsed Capital Projects

The Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon received over 35 applications for 2023-25 CREF funding for arts and culture capital projects across the state. We evaluated these applications in a peer review process led by CACO board members and with expertise from staff of the Oregon Arts Commission and the Oregon Cultural Trust. Using specific criteria from economic impact to expanding access to the arts, we saw many exciting projects under development across the state.

Successful projects were selected largely because of their impact and level of readiness for state investment. We are confident that state funds will support well-developed and viable projects on the endorsed slate.

**Clatsop County Historical Society: \$1,000,000**  
**Expanding the Oregon Film Museum**



Increases space to facilitate appreciation of the art of media making and careers in film by better accommodating 40,000+ visitors a year in Astoria.

- 2022 attendance: 45,501, best year ever and a 20% increase over 2021
- Attendees came from all 50 states and more than 20 nations
- Clatsop County Historical Society (four museums) welcomed and educated more than 85,000 visitors (14% increase over 2021)
- Offer free admission to any school child in Clatsop County; more than 500 kids came through the Oregon Film Museum for free

**Black United Fund: \$900,000**  
**Building United Futures Complex**



Comprehensive razing, rebuild, and renaissance of the Black United Fund on Alberta Street in North Portland to showcase and shelter Black and BIPOC artists and arts organizations. Increases capacity by 200%, resulting in 4,000 people directly served and nearly 40,000 indirectly served each year.

- Has affected the lives of over 75,000 Oregonians
- Has awarded more than \$10 million in scholarships, including 30 students in 2022
- Improves lives of 1,000 Portland-area marginalized youth each year
- Allocated \$49.5 million to 15,600 Black individuals/families, 488 Black-owned businesses, and 103 Black-led nonprofits with CARES funding

**Friends of the Oregon Caves & Chateau: \$455,690**  
**Restoring the Oregon Caves Chateau**



Restoration and repair of historic doors and related hardware dating back to 1933-34 when the chateau was built. One of only two National Historic Landmark Lodges in Oregon. 120,000 people visit each year and with the chateau's restoration, it is expected to grow to 200,000.

- Main economic asset to rural Josephine County
- Cave Junction, the nearest town, was created as the gateway to the Oregon Caves
- In 2015, 72,709 visitors spent \$4,539,900 in communities near the park; supported 75 jobs; and benefited the local economy by \$5,685,994

## 2023-25 Endorsed Capital Projects

Literary Arts: \$1 million

### Building new community space and headquarters



Build a community space and permanent headquarters by quadrupling current capacity with added classrooms, seminar and event spaces. Helping people to tell their story as a form of artistic self-expression, empowerment and community building.

- Current annual budget: \$3.6 million
- Staff size: 21
- Audience: 20,000 attendees
- 713 class/seminar participants
- 581 awards and fellowships applicants
- 4,000 youth served
- Total served: half a million listeners a year via The Archive Project radio show and podcast

Columbia County Museum Association: \$400,000

### Relocation and improved accessibility



Move the museum to the historic John Gumm School in St. Helens, expanding and improving access to the collection that chronicles the people, places, things and events that shaped Columbia County's history and culture.

- Welcomed quite a few visitors in the fall months, partly from events staged in the historic downtown area that target youth and younger audiences

Josephine Community Library Foundation: \$424,603

### Land for a new library and community commons



Acquisition of land to construct a new, two-story library and community gathering space in central downtown Grants Pass.

- More than 25,467 county residents have a library card.
- Monthly visitors: 8,400+ check out 20,000 books and other materials; 700 use the computers; and 2,300 access Wi-Fi.
- Annual visitors for 270 programs: 6,000 children, teens, and adults.
- Monthly volunteers: 100 volunteers work 1,200 hours each month.

Native Arts and Culture Foundation: \$3 million

### Creation of the Center for Native Arts and Cultures



To renovate and retrofit the Yale Union Building in Southeast Portland to provide cultural resources to rural and urban Native constituents across the state of Oregon as well as serve as a national, Oregon-based arts and cultures destination

- Total Native artists and organizations supported: 360+
- Total grants awarded: 56+ for \$13M+
- Awards made in 34 different states
- Over 400 people visited the new Center for Native Arts and Cultures in the first two months
- Launching public programming for Portland arts audience in our gallery and public arts spaces.
- Portland is home to the nation's 9th largest urban Native American population



High Desert Museum: \$2 million  
**Construction of a new wing of the museum**



To construct new exhibit space and renovate the permanent exhibition on the Indigenous Plateau, doubling the museum's educational programming capacity, increasing events with revenue of over \$1M, and increasing attendance by 10%+ each year.

- Annual attendance: 200,000 (12,000 of these are students)
- Economic impact on central Oregon economy: \$20 million+
- Closest dedicated art museum to Bend and Central Oregon is 120 miles away in Eugene

Southern Oregon Historical Society: \$500,000  
**Creation of an event center and new museum**



To fund renovation of the J.C. Penney building in Medford to house new event space. Will facilitate establishing a new exhibit space as well as a mobile museum for the collections showcasing the history of Jackson County and Southern Oregon

The 1948 J. C. Penney building in downtown Medford (which contains headquarters, research library, and archives) finally reopened in 6/2022..

Attendance for 2022:

- Research Library – 415 (closed part of year for Covid)
- Hanley Farm – 7225

PAM CUT // Center for an Untold Tomorrow: \$250,000  
**Creation of the Tomorrow Theater**



Renovation of the former Oregon Theater, a 1925 vaudeville theater in SE Portland, to provide multi-media performance space focused on immersive cinematic experiences of all kinds. Audiences of over 88,000 are expected by the theater's third year, along with support for over 5,000 artists and 30+ community partnerships.

- Partnered with 31 artists in FY22, 45% of whom identify as BIPOC
- Estimating the Tomorrow Theater will generate more than \$3 million in economic growth in the region, with 41 construction jobs, 11 FTEs, and 11 part-time jobs, in addition to 19 contract jobs
- Served nearly 6,000 people in FY22, but didn't reopen theater until March 2022

Painted Sky Center for Arts and Culture: \$500,000  
**A building for Painted Sky Center for Arts and Culture**



To acquire a multi-use permanent space in John Day to serve all Grant County residents and visitors with arts and culture offerings. Located next to the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site, this facility will provide year-round livability and economic benefits to the region.

- Attendance: 900 unique visitors
- 1-year post building acquisition: 2250 unique visitors (a 250% increase in the first year after the acquisition; anticipating an additional 100% increase each year for the 3-5 years thereafter)
- 5-year economic impact: \$5,307,803 and 165 FTE jobs

**2023-25 Endorsed Capital Projects**

**Very Little Theatre: \$350,000**  
**Renovate and remodel existing building**



To expand the scene shop and storage capacity of this community theatre in Eugene in order for more community groups to use the facility and strengthen economic impact.

- Attendance each season: 9,000
- Increase in attendance by 10% since reopening after pandemic closures
- 150 volunteers each year
- Only one full-time staff member and two part-time contractors

**Portland Institute for Contemporary Art: \$150,000**  
**Capital repairs and upgrades to the building**



Critical building repairs and expanded accessibility to support the continued delivery of contemporary art and artistic exhibitions, programs, and productions.

- Pre-pandemic annual attendance: just under 25-30K/yr; since reopening has been 10-12K and slowly rising
- Provides space for 48 groups and community partners
- Hosted 62 artists in residence in past 2 years
- Most activities have been free or deeply discounted

**Rainier Oregon Historical Museum: \$500,000**  
**Building construction for the Rainier Oregon Historical Museum**



Currently operating out of a one-room in City Hall, this expansion on land already owned by the museum will allow for designated space for collection display and community events serving the 2000 residents and numerous visitors to Rainier.

- Annual attendance, 2022: 310 (open 1 day per week)
- Membership: 292 (out of a town population of 1,917)
- Volunteer hours: 3,223
- Initial capital project planned for \$990,550; now plan to make further upgrades for a total cost of \$2,060,081



Salem Parks Foundation: \$150,000

**Eco-Earth globe restoration in Riverfront Park**



Repair of this historic attraction created by volunteers upon the acid ball used to process wood pulp at the former Boise Cascade operation now home to Riverfront Park. This monument is need of significant renewal attention to match the growing vibrancy of Salem's riverfront park.

Portland Playhouse: \$300,000

**Acquisition of Portland Playhouse Building and Property**



Purchasing the home of Portland Playhouse in the King neighborhood in North Portland, reaching over 13,000 people a year in audience size plus serving 500 students annually with in-school residencies.

- 5 plays
- 91 artists engaged to create plays
- 8,501 people served
- 500 on-demand views
- 101 \$5 Arts-for-All tickets sold
- 14 BIPOC nights
- \$522,501 raised for new building





## 2023-25 Cultural Resource Economic Funds (CREF) Endorsed Capital Projects

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Successful projects were selected largely because of their impact and their level of readiness for state investment. We are confident that state funds will support well-developed and viable projects on the endorsed slate.

- 1. Black United Fund (\$900,000).** *Building United Futures Complex.*  
A comprehensive razing, rebuild and renaissance of the physical space of the Black United Fund on Alberta Street in North Portland to showcase and shelter local Black and BIPOC artists and arts organizations, among other mission-aligned organizations focused on economic development, education, and more. Increases capacity of BUF by 200% resulting in 4,000 people directly served and nearly 40,000 indirectly served each year.
- 2. Clatsop County Historical Society (\$1,000,000).** *Expanding the Oregon Film Museum.*  
To increase space to facilitate appreciation of the art of media making and careers in film by better accommodating 40,000+ visitors a year in Astoria.
- 3. Friends of the Oregon Caves & Chateau (\$455,690).** *Restoring the Oregon Caves Chateau.*  
For restoration and repair of historic doors and their related hardware dating back to 1933-34 when the Chateau was built in Cave Junction. One of only two National Historic Landmark Lodges in Oregon. Currently 120,000 people visit each year and with completion of the Chateau's restoration, this is expected to grow to 200,000.
- 4. Literary Arts (\$1,000,000).** *Building New Community Space/Headquarters of Literary Arts.*  
To build a community space and permanent headquarters in Portland's Central Eastside by quadrupling Literary's Arts current capacity with added classrooms, seminar and event spaces. Helping people to tell their story as a form of artistic self-expression, empowerment and community building, Literary Arts currently serves over 20,000 event attendees, over 700 readers and writers who take classes, 581 fellowship applicants, 4,000 youth per year, and over half a million radio show and podcast listeners.
- 5. Columbia County Museum Association (\$400,000).** *Relocation and Improved Accessibility of the Columbia County Museum.*  
To move the Museum to the historic John. Gumm School in St. Helens expanding and improving access to the collection which chronicles the people, places, things and events that shaped Columbia County's history and culture. In 2019, visitors to Columbia County spent \$4.4 million on arts, entertainment, and recreation, including museums and historical/cultural preservation activities.

- 6. Josephine Community Library Foundation (\$424,603).** *Acquisition of land for a New Josephine County Library and Community Commons.*  
Acquisition of land to construct a new, two-story library and community gathering space in central downtown Grants Pass. Over 20,000 people annually attend library events with an additional 15,000 patrons using public computers and 75,000 connecting to library wi-fi.
- 7. Native Arts and Culture Foundation (\$3,000,000).** *Creation of the Center for Native Arts and Cultures.*  
To renovate and retrofit the Yale Union Building in Southeast Portland to provide cultural resources to rural and urban Native constituents across the state of Oregon as well as serve as a national, Oregon-based arts and cultures destination. From supporting direct grants and fellowships to artists and culture-bearers, to supporting community organizations, and hosting convenings, NACF is positioned to serve 6.8 m. people in this country who identify as Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians.
- 8. High Desert Museum (\$2,000,000).** *Construction of a New Wing of the High Desert Museum.*  
To construct new exhibit space at the Museum in Bend and renovate the permanent exhibition on the Indigenous Plateau. The Museum has a \$20 m. impact on the central Oregon region annually. This project will double the Museum's educational programming capacity, increase events with revenue of over \$1 m., and increase attendance by a minimum of 10% a year, with 150,000 visitors coming from outside of the region.
- 9. Southern Oregon Historical Society (\$500,000).** *Creation of an Event Center and New Southern Oregon Historical Society Museum.*  
To fund renovation of the J.C. Penney building in Medford to house new event space which will facilitate establishing a new exhibit space as well as a mobile museum for the collections showcasing the history of Jackson County and Southern Oregon.
- 10. PAM CUT // Center for an Untold Tomorrow (\$250,000).** *Creation of the Tomorrow Theater.*  
Renovation of the former Oregon Theater, a 1925 vaudeville theater in Southeast Portland to provide multi-media performance space focused on immersive cinematic experiences of all kinds. Audiences of over 88,000 are expected by the Theater's third year, along with support for over 5,000 artists and 30+ community partnerships.
- 11. Painted Sky Center for Arts and Culture (\$500,000).** *Acquisition of Building for Painted Sky Center for Arts and Culture.*  
To acquire a multi-use permanent space in John Day to serve all Grant County residents and visitors with arts and culture offerings. Located next to the Kam Wah Chung State Heritage Site, this facility will provide year-round livability and economic benefits to the region.
- 12. Very Little Theatre (\$350,000).** *Renovate and Remodel Existing Building for the Very Little Theatre.*  
To expand the scene shop and storage capacity of this community theatre in Eugene in order for more community groups to use the facility and strengthen economic impact.
- 13. Rainier Oregon Historical Museum (\$500,000).** *Building Construction for the Rainier Oregon Historical Museum.*



Currently operating out of one-room in the City Hall, this expansion on land already owned by the Museum will allow for designated space for collection display and community events serving the 2000 residents and numerous visitors to Rainier.

**14. Portland Institute for Contemporary Art (\$150,000).** *Capital Repairs and Upgrades to PICA Building.*

For critical building repairs and to expand accessibility to support the continued delivery of contemporary art and artistic exhibitions, programs, and productions in the North Portland area. Improvements will include external lighting, security upgrades, and ADA compliance updates needed to operate safely to the benefit of community groups, staff and artists who utilize the space.

**15. Salem Parks Foundation (\$150,000).** *Eco-Earth Globe Restoration in Riverfront Park.*

Repair of this historic attraction created by volunteers upon the acid ball used to process wood pulp at the former Boise Cascade operation now home to Riverfront Park. This monument is need of significant renewal attention to match the growing vibrancy of Salem's riverfront park.

**16. Portland Playhouse (\$300,000).** *Acquisition of Portland Playhouse Building and Property.*

To purchase the home of Portland Playhouse in the King neighborhood in North Portland, reaching over 13,000 people a year in audience size plus serving 500 students annually with in-school residencies.

**TOTAL 2023-25 REQUEST                      \$11.8 m.**





## 2023-25 Legislative Priorities

1. **\$50 m. in additional recovery funding for the arts and cultural sector.** We had advocated for this in 2022 and were not successful largely because previous ARPA funds had not yet been distributed to the field. Even though those funds have now made it to the field, many of our organizations are seeing attendance rates at less than 50% of what they were before the pandemic. The need is great. Recovery from the pandemic for the cultural sector is proving to be a five-year time period. Additional recovery money is essential to help organizations survive. **(HB 2459)**
2. **CREF Capital Projects.** In a unique arrangement, the Oregon Ways and Means Committee, permits the CACO to conduct a statewide RFP project to help prioritize projects for state capital investment. Projects go through an intensive peer review process to assess readiness and community impact. 16 projects were selected totaling \$11.8 m. in our request for the session, they represent large and small, from \$3 m. to \$150,000, locations all over the state, and all kinds of arts, culture, historic preservation, and heritage sites. **(Ways and Means request)**
3. **\$200 m. In long-term funding for the corpus of the Oregon Cultural Trust.** We are asking lawmakers to keep the original \$200 m. pledge they made to fund the Oregon Cultural Trust through the sale of public lands. No lands have been sold so the Trust thus far has been built by Oregonians through the cultural trust tax credit. We seek revenue from lottery bonds to be dedicated to the Oregon Cultural Trust with earnings spent for operations grants to the 1500+ nonprofits eligible for OCT/OAC grants. **(HB 2498)**
4. **\$10 m. increase in Oregon Arts Commission grants budget for operations grants.** OAC has not received an increase in their grants budget in over a decade yet the field has grown in its impact and Oregonians continue to prioritize access to arts and culture. We are in the bottom half of the state rankings for state support and yet we know the value of creativity to our residents. We encourage policymakers to recognize not only the economic impact of this investment in terms of tourism, employment and enjoyment; but to show its priority as a means by which our people can connect, grow and enrich.
5. **Replacing Oregon Cultural Trust Administrative Cap with Percentage of Earnings.** The OCT is artificially capped in its administrative costs by the original legislation which created this unique-to-the-nation public funding mechanism of arts and culture. It is time to modernize this mechanism so it can grow as the field grows with providing technical assistance and support. **(HB 3532)**



