

Submitter: Frank Faillace  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

Hello, my name is Frank Faillace, and I am one of the owners of three different live music venues in downtown Portland: Dante's, Star Theater, and the Jack London Revue. As you all know, live music venues were hit particularly hard by the Covid-19 Pandemic. They were hit even harder in Oregon because of the the strictest safety measures. And they have been affected post-pandemic the hardest of all in downtown Portland.

All three of our venues are located in downtown Portland. As you all know, downtown Portland and all the post-pandemic problems has become a meme for the media. Businesses are taking a huge hit. Even more than 2022 that at least featured a short burst of activity before the memes took over and everyone decided to not go downtown anymore. Our businesses in 2023 are down another 35% from 2022, and more than 60% from 2019. Live music and the arts need help or they will not survive this year.

Dante's has been open since 2000, and over the last 23 years has featured such amazing and varied acts such as John Waters, The Killers, George Clinton, Katt Williams, Kesha, Dan Reed Network, Dead Moon, the Rebirth Brass Band, and of course the amazing Storm Large who worked there and had a weekly residency for several years.

The Star Theater is an iconic theater built in 1911. It started as a silent movie theater and evolved into a famous burlesque hall in the 1940s when it was featured in Life Magazine. One of the most famous burlesque dancers, Tempest Storm, graced the stage at the Star Theater, and one of her most famous pictures is of her in the green room under the stage next to a pillar with a small piece chipped out of it. It still looks exactly the same. The Star had Tempest Storm as a guest for the 100th anniversary in 2011 after it was converted into a live music venue. It has featured some amazing acts over the last 12 years like Lizzo, Lee "Scratch" Perry, The Von Trapp Family, The Sonics, Mark Lanegan, Nu Shooz, Rev. Horton Heat, Peter Murphy, and The Dandy Warhols.

Jack London Revue has become Portland's home for Jazz with the legendary Mel Brown playing most Thursday nights and the home for the Portland Jazz Festival after-parties.

Please help these three venues, as well as all the other struggling Oregon live music and arts venues, survive this post-pandemic nightmare.