

Submitter: Jenny Stadler

On Behalf  
Of: PHAME

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital  
Construction

Measure: HB5030

PHAME Academy is a 38-year-old arts organization that serves Oregon's intellectual and developmental disability community. This marginalized group faces isolation and lack of opportunity in virtually every area—and so it is often lifechanging to participate in PHAME's robust education program, multifaceted performance program, and community building activities. And yet PHAME Academy has never had our own home.

We now have an opportunity to create a space of our own—a state-of-the-art, accessible art and community space built for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities first. This new home will allow adults with disabilities to reach their artistic potential, and also make them more visible in our community. It will show that people with developmental disabilities are valued as artists, and as human beings.

Our new space, formerly an auto transmission shop located on SE 12th Avenue in Portland, will include bright, fully accessible spaces that put our students' ability to practice their art on a more equitable footing with other artists: a dance and drama studio, a visual art classroom, a recording studio and multiple community gathering spaces. It will include quiet spaces for individual sensory needs, and a beautiful outdoor plaza.

And it will extinguish a long-standing need for people with I/DD to have a space of their own—where accommodations are a given, where one's disability does not need to be explained, and where disabled people do not need to continually justify their presence.

With this building we will be able to deeply serve more than our current student body (a quarter of whom are from outside the Portland Metro Area). We'll be able to provide more classes—both in person and online. And we'll be able to bring more representation to stages, and more art by people with developmental disabilities to audiences with more performances around the region and the state. This space will allow us to engage more arts organizations in building accessibility into their own spaces and programs as well.

Please include PHAME's new space in your capital investments this session. This building will be a place for art. It will create equity for artists with developmental

disabilities. And most importantly, PHAME's new home will be a place where people with developmental disabilities can truly belong.