

May 03, 2023

Co-Chairs Senator Girod and Representative Holvey  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
Salem, Oregon. 97301

RE: CREF Slate 2023-25

Dear Co-Chairs Girod, Holvey and Members of the Subcommittee:

I am writing to express my support of the 2023 slate of Capital Improvement Projects and HB 2459 - I would like to share my gratitude for our fellow cultural institutions in Oregon also seeking support, and my recommendation for these high-merit projects that will significantly contribute to a healthier and more enriching artistic and cultural landscape in the State of Oregon.

As PICA's Executive Director since 2001, I have witnessed the vast and varied needs to keep cultural institutions across the state in good condition, and to maintain spaces that will be safe and accessible to the public. Impactful financial support for capital improvements and updates have always been a major need for PICA and our cohort of organizations - it is how we grow, expand, and find ways to house and facilitate the necessary programs, exhibitions, and community-led activities that foster community building, understanding, and an appreciation for art and culture as integral to our everyday lives. However, with the arrival of the pandemic and the major changes in funding trends and opportunities that followed, it has become even more urgent to receive support from the state for which we provide cultural resources and outlets. Concerns and fears about the longevity and sustainability in this new 'post'-covid paradigm are remarkably (and rightfully) heightened - we are all experiencing a time of scarcity and lack of sufficient resources, and we have mostly relied on ourselves to alleviate those institutional pressures, while remaining committed to providing cultural services to our diverse communities.

As we have navigated this proposal and application process, we are grateful for the attention to detail and commitment to understanding our work that has been demonstrated by the Cultural Advocacy Coalition and by our legislative representatives across the state, through zoom calls, in-person meetings, Advocacy Day, and letters of support. We have felt incredibly well equipped and guided by CACO in the application and advocacy process and are hopeful that these kinds of support systems will create greater access to funds for PICA, and for our colleagues listed in the slate.

Ensuring that our building is in proper working condition enables PICA to deliver quality arts programming to our neighborhood, and to help community partners deliver events in our space, including gatherings, celebrations, performances, town halls, and other public events that enhance artistic and cultural vibrancy, and grow opportunities for professional and creative

The logo for PICA (Portland Institute for Contemporary Arts) features the letters "PICA" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters are positioned above a thick, horizontal yellow bar that extends to the left of the text.

development for the individuals we serve. We serve over 20,000 community members annually, including dozens of partner organizations and over 400 artists. By completing these improvements, we will be able to maintain this level of support, in an adequately-outfitted, safe, dry, and temperature-controlled space. A majority of our resources and partnerships are devoted to BIPOC, LGBTQ, women/non-binary, and disabled -identified artists, individuals, and communities, particularly those that have generational ties to the historically Black/African-American neighborhood in which we are based.

Now, I am asking, and urgently encouraging, that our legislature join us in affirming and supporting the vital work that we do by investing in the entire slate of CREF proposed projects for 2023. This funding will not only support our capital improvement projects, but enable a ripple effect of positive change and impact across our artistic and cultural communities.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
*Victoria Frey*  
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Victoria Frey

PICA

Executive Director