

May 1, 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,

With great enthusiasm Portland Playhouse supports the entire CREF slate.

We are honored to be one of several deserving projects in the package, and to have the support of Senator Frederick and be in alignment with Representative Sanchez's district objectives.

Funds awarded will allow Portland Playhouse to purchase our buildings and property, and make critical infrastructure upgrades — securing the future of our role as a neighborhood arts center in Portland's historically Black King neighborhood.

This project will have long- and short-term impacts on the Playhouse, the people we serve, and our community as a whole. The purchase will benefit the 12,000 community members who attend PPH events and productions – including 2,000 students and patrons who receive free and reduced cost admissions, 150 middle and high school students, 100+ artists, and dozens of local organizations who receive free/reduced cost access to our venue.

Purchasing the property ensures it will continue to be a community asset well into the future. This one-time investment will immediately translate into funds once earmarked for rent that can be reinvested in programs that highlight BIPOC stories and foster healing and joy.

Thank you for valuing our state's rich cultural ecology.



Brian Weaver, Artistic Director



Brian Weaver
Artistic Director

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In Memorium

Bing Sheldon