

SALEM PARKS FOUNDATION



Rooted in the Past, Providing for the Future

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

May 1, 2023

RE: CREF Slate 2023-25

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

On behalf of Salem Parks Foundation, I am requesting that the Subcommittee on Capital Construction support the Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon (CACO) 2023 slate of capital construction projects recommended for the Cultural Resources Economic Fund (CREF). The 16 endorsed projects on the slate are all worthy and include an allocation of \$150,000 for the Restoration of the Eco-Earth Globe in Salem's Riverfront Park, proposed by Salem Parks Foundation.

The Eco-Earth Globe is a local treasure, a 25-foot-diameter mosaic sculpture crafted by volunteers and gifted to the City of Salem in 2003 as a symbol of world peace, global awareness, and cultural diversity. Riverfront Park is Salem's busiest park, the site of many tourist-attracting large events, and the Eco-Earth Globe is a favorite spot for photographs. Unfortunately, time and the elements have taken their toll, and this once-stunning piece of public art is becoming a source of embarrassment.

The City of Salem commissioned a professional assessment, and the estimate for restoration of Eco-Earth was \$400,000. Recognizing the many other demands on the City's budget, Salem Parks Foundation offered to raise \$300,000. We have thus far raised \$60,000 in donations from local individuals and groups, and we are currently applying for grants from funding sources. The Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon required a rigorous application process for inclusion on the endorsed slate. We are proud to have made the list. The \$150,000 CREF allotment would be a welcome assist in reaching our goal of restoring Eco-Earth.

We are asking the committee to fund the \$11.88M slate of CACO's endorsed projects, including the Eco-Earth Globe Restoration, because we agree with CACO that "A strong arts and culture sector impacts livability, economic activity and social attachment to communities!"

Thank you for your service to the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,
Carol Snyder

Carol Snyder
President, Salem Parks Foundation

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