



# CROSSROADS CARNEGIE ART CENTER

*Art for Everyone*

2020 Auburn Ave Baker City OR 97814 541-523-5369 [www.crossroads-arts.org](http://www.crossroads-arts.org)

Friday, February 2, 2024

Dear Chair Bynum and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development & Small Business-

As the Executive Director of Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, the oldest continuously operating art center East of the Cascades serving Baker County, Oregon I respectfully ask for your vote to pass **HB 4124** which will provide funding for 14 critically needed Capital projects for a diverse group of Arts and Culture Organizations around the state.

As member of the Cultural Resource Economic Fund committee of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon who has managed this process since 2013, we spend months working to bring to the Legislature a set of "shovel ready" projects that have demonstrated local support, impact their communities and the Arts Ecology of Oregon. Last session, while we appreciate that two Portland Metro projects were selected for funding, the remaining 14 projects were not funded in what seems to be an error in the process. We hope that these worthy projects that represent a variety of regions, art disciplines receive your support.

As part of **HB 4124**, it includes Resiliency Funding for the Arts and Culture Sector. One of the unique parts of the cultural sector is how far we plan our programming ahead of time. Most organizations work between three and five years to develop their presentations, funding, and the creation process of any type of cultural endeavor. This chain of work process and funding strategies was disrupted by the pandemic, political and societal disruptions, and the significant changes in the economy from labor costs to materials. Your support will help steady the "ship" that is the cultural sector.

Arts and Culture is the tie that binds a community. It is a concert in the park, a movie, a show, the beauty of a painting or learning how to make art that gives meaning and purpose to a stress-filled life. We are so appreciative of the work of Rep. Rob Nosse and the numerous members of Arts and Culture Caucus who are learning and understanding the unique complexities and challenges of our sector and the significant impact on our local and statewide economy. Your support is needed for **HB 4124**.

Thank you so very much!

Ginger L Savage  
Executive Director  
Crossroads Carnegie Art Center  
Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon Board Member  
Baker County Cultural Coalition  
Baker County Historical Society President

