



February 2, 2024

Oregon Legislature
House Committee on Economic Development & Small Business
Salem, Oregon

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

I trust this message finds you well. As a staunch advocate for the Regional Arts and Culture Council, I am reaching out to emphasize our unwavering support for **HB 4124**. This legislation addresses the pressing need to allocate funds for 14 Capital projects benefiting a diverse array of Arts and Culture Organizations across Oregon.

The state's cultural richness is integral to its identity, significantly contributing to vibrant communities and enhancing residents' lives. The Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon has meticulously identified and recommended capital projects that demonstrate local support and positively impact communities. In the previous session, an oversight left 14 projects totaling \$7.8 million unfunded, and we believe these projects merit your support.

HB 4124 also includes crucial resiliency funding for the nonprofit arts and culture sector, acknowledging the challenges faced post-pandemic. While federal funding sustained us through the crisis, the slow return of audiences poses a threat. With a relatively small investment, you have the opportunity to solve this issue and support arts organizations statewide.

Beyond the cultural sector, this funding creates a foundation for broader economic resurgence. Supporting major venues stimulates local businesses, as highlighted in the recent 'Arts and Economic Prosperity Study' (AEP6). It is imperative to sustain organizations that contribute to creativity, education, economic growth, and community engagement.

We recognize the Legislature's myriad challenges but urge you to consider the lasting impact of your support. **HB 4124** is a vital step in rebuilding our cultural infrastructure, fostering job creation, and revitalizing our communities. Your voice, vote, and support for this legislation are crucial for a brighter, more resilient future for Oregon.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and commitment to the economic well-being of our state.

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