



Catherine Rickbone Creates

February 6, 2024

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

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

I have only one request: Please support **HB 4124**. Here's WHY.

WHY? Because ALL the capital projects in the Cultural Resources Economic Fund need your support. Myself and a committee of Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon members worked long and hard to vet and present a slate of 16 "shovel ready" projects. Only two Portland-area projects were funded. That's not fair for the remaining 14 projects and the rest of the state, including the coast, eastern, central and southern Oregon. These projects, totaling \$7.8M, deserve your vote of confidence with approval of **HB 4124**.

WHY? Because "resiliency" funding for our arts and heritage organizations keeps them viable and of service to their communities, both large and small, both children and adults. The proposed funding of \$14M supports arts organizations that didn't receive funding last year, plus \$5.6M for anchor arts groups. Let's not allow these organizations to break, flounder, and die. Please support the Arts Ecology of Oregon that contributes to statewide education, economic growth, creativity and community engagement by passing **HB 4124**.

Thank you,

Catherine Rickbone
Executive Director, (Retired) Oregon Coast Council for the Arts (OCCA)
Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon (CACO) Board Member
Lincoln County Cultural Coalition Member & Secretary
City of Newport Public Art Committee Member