

45TH PARALLEL UNIVERSE

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

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

I am newly Executive Director of 45th Parallel Universe, a chamber music ensemble comprised of Oregon Symphony musicians. However, I have been in arts administration in Oregon since 2008. Seeing the ebbs and flows of funding, state programs, local county programs, etc. I firmly believe that state support is needed more now than ever. I have long been an advocate of the arts, of culture, of all of the various economic drivers that continue to promote prosperity in many different sectors of our state economy.

I respectfully ask for you to vote to pass HB 4124 which will provide funding for 14 critically needed Capital projects around the state that honor, uplift, and serve arts and culture organizations that will and have given back to the community time and time again.

HB 4124 also includes funding that creates resiliency in arts organizations that are still recovering and learning what it means to come back to an audience after the pandemic. This funding helps nonprofits in arts and culture continue their critical programming, creates jobs, funding for artist's in the community, and continues to ultimately give back to citizens from many different backgrounds with varied interests and different levels of participating within arts and culture in Oregon.

The humanities, arts, culture, and community are all ultimately one common chord that threads us together and continues to be a lifeforce for folks all around Oregon. Supporting HB 4124 means you are supporting concerts at new venues, old venues, in schools, parks, art shows, multimedia performances, and education in the arts in a way that is critically needed now more than ever. When we think about how much the arts have helped mental wellness, how they continue to be the only outlet for many to process complex emotions, and how we've recently learned from the Americans for the Arts Survey (AE6) that they can fiscally uplift rural and metro economies, we must invest in them if we invest in our future in a fiscal way.

The Arts and Culture Caucus was the start of this support, and HB 4124 can be a continuation on the trust that the arts are building with the legislature to continue to uplift the arts and culture sector who have a proven economic impact statewide. Your support is needed for HB 4124.

I'm looking forward to the session ahead, and bringing you the best chamber music and community outreach available.

To infinity and beyond,
Lisa Lipton
Executive Director

