



February 10, 2024

Honorable Kathleen Taylor, Chair
Honorable Daniel Bonhman, Vice Chair and Committee Members
Senate Committee on Labor and Business
Oregon Legislature
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SUPPORT SB 1582 - Arts/Culture/Heritage Funding for Capital and Resiliency

We urge you to **support and vote yes on SB 182** as it seeks to accomplish two critical items – fund the 14 projects remaining on the Cultural Resources Economic Fund (CREF) slate and provides a one time investment that infuses the arts/culture/heritage sector with increased resiliency. With \$27 million in funding, this bill will boost local economies and achieve incredible leverage of this investment as the arts/culture/heritage sector is a major economic driver and jobs producer in our State.

As Oregon's only statewide non-profit historic preservation organization, **Restore Oregon works with thousands of people across the state each year to preserve, reuse, and pass forward the historic places and spaces that embody Oregon's diverse cultural heritage.** By helping our fellow citizens preserve our state's unique built, natural and cultural environments, we help celebrate and promote the places and spaces that make Oregon special and distinct. **Restore Oregon wholeheartedly supports this total request for one time funding support.**



(range of statewide capital projects requesting funding through the CREF process.)

The slate of CREF capital projects include many historic preservation projects from the Friends of the Oregon Caves and Chateau and the Southern Oregon Historical Society to Columbia County Museum Association and Clatsop County Historical Society with wonderful restoration projects in Salem, Eugene, and Portland. The Chateau at the Oregon Caves is one of Oregon's few National Historic Landmarks and has been on our Most Endangered Places program since 2016. We support the entire slate of projects.

Equally important are the **over 1,600 Oregon Cultural Trust-qualified cultural organizations** in every community in this State who likely will be eligible for one-time resiliency grant funding from the \$13.465 million portion of this bill. These organizations are the backbone of our State's creative arts, cultural and heritage economy. They do the work at the local, regional and statewide level, making communities in which they work thrive. As with our anchors and live venues, so many of these organizations, including ours, are struggling to survive and get back to 2019 levels. This funding will help stabilize and keep them afloat while building back their audiences and supporters. It's a relatively small investment for such a big impact on the communities that they serve.

We appreciate the ability to provide this **testimony in strong support of SB 1582**. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nicole Possert".

Nicole Possert
Executive Director

cc: Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon