

July 25, 2024

Columbia River Maritime Museum
1792 Marine Drive
Astoria, OR 97103

Dear Cultural Resources Economic Fund,

I am writing to express the Columbia-Pacific Economic Development Districts enthusiastic support for the Columbia River Maritime Museum's \$30 million expansion and transformation project and their request for grant funding from the Cultural Resource Economic Fund. This ambitious endeavor promises to significantly enhance the museum's capacity to serve the region and local community and visitors, providing numerous benefits to Northwest Oregon.

The planned remodeling of 11,000 square feet of existing galleries, alongside the creation of a new 24,000 square foot exhibit and education hall, will vastly improve the museum's offerings. This expansion will not only increase the space available for exhibits but will also provide state-of-the-art facilities for educational programs, making the museum a beacon of learning and cultural enrichment.

One of the most compelling reasons to support this project is its potential to strengthen the economy and livability of Northwest Oregon. The museum's expansion is expected to attract more visitors to the region, boosting local businesses and creating new job opportunities. This, in turn, will contribute to the overall economic vitality of Clatsop County.

Moreover, the museum's enhanced facilities will provide high-quality cultural and educational experiences for youth in a rural county. Access to such resources is essential for fostering a love of learning and supporting future academic success. The museum's programs will inspire and educate young minds, laying a strong foundation for their future endeavors.

The Columbia River Maritime Museum is already a cultural attraction that significantly contributes to the quality of life in Astoria and Clatsop County. By expanding and transforming the museum, we can ensure that it continues to be an attractive location to live, work, and play. This renovation will elevate the museum from an important regional institution to a world-class museum, drawing visitors from far and wide and enhancing Northwest Oregon's cultural landscape.

In conclusion, the Columbia River Maritime Museum's expansion and transformation project is a vital investment in the future of the Northwest Oregon community. ColPac wholeheartedly supports this initiative and their grant request, and look forward to witnessing the positive impact it will have on our region.

Sincerely,



Colin Cooper
Executive Director