

JEFFREY A. HELFRICH
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 52



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Dear Members of the Committee,

Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museum (MHCCM) has been accepted as one of the organizations eligible to move forward in the Cultural Resource Economic Fund (CREF) request process. MHCCM is in my district, in the village of Government Camp. I support this organization and its plans for facility expansion and would request that it be included in the 2025-2027 Biennium Budget as part of the full CREF request.

As a bit of background, the Mt. Hood Cultural Center and Museums founding members wished to find a place to preserve and showcase artifacts of the Mount Hood Forest region and communities which developed around the area's outdoor activities. In 2001, Clackamas County helped secure a former bed and breakfast lodge, which was remodeled to become the ADA-accessible museum and community center of today.

Over time, given its success, MHCCM outgrew its facility - both for preserving and showcasing local history and as a vibrant and sorely needed community space. They knew expansion was necessary in order to fulfill its mission, and so pursued planning for expansion. A three-phase expansion plan was developed and fund raising began in 2018. Along with many other projects you will hear from, the COVID pandemic created a significant disruption – MHCCM was forced to close to the public, grant funding dried up, and the Clackamas County Visitor Center funding was cancelled. Operating expenses continued with little income. They were fortunate to survive it and were one of the few Oregon museums which remained open to the public as much as was allowed.

MHCCM's CREF project request is to help support the first phase of the facility's expansion. Phase 1 expands the basement archive storage and puts in place the structural supports necessary to move to Phases 2 and 3 in the future. These future phases expand exhibit and research spaces, and community center facilities. This proposed CREF ask is a prime project to help the Museum continue to meet its mission to strengthen community, foster arts, and protect, stabilize, and showcase all aspects of the history of Mount Hood. Please consider them for inclusion in the next biennium's budget.

Sincerely,



Jeff Helfrich