

Submitter: Christine D'Arcy

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3191

Rep. Daniel Nguyen, Chair

Reps. Ed Diehl and Shannon Isadore, Vice-Chairs

House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Trade

Oregon State Legislature

Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: HB 3191

Dear Chair Nguyen, Vice Chairs Diehl and Isadore, and Committee Members,

I encourage you to support HB 3191 which will support 14 shovel-ready cultural projects totaling \$9.3 million for capital investment through the Cultural Resources Economic Fund (CREF).

Oregon has a long history of supporting important cultural capital projects, designed to contribute to economic and community development in communities across Oregon. This year's proposed projects are in Salem, Astoria, Coos Bay, Baker City, Bend, Jacksonville, Joseph, Government Camp, Warm Springs, Ashland, and Portland.

In my community of Salem, three significant projects are part of this cultural package:

The historic Elsinore Theatre, a cultural icon and anchor in downtown Salem, will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2026. State funds will help restore the Gothic roofline ornamentation on the building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the 1928 lighted blade sign that once illuminated the block which blew down in the 1962 Columbus Day storm and has been missing ever since.

The Bush House Museum, owned by the City of Salem and operated by its caretakers, Salem Art Association, will make improvements to re-define the history, artifacts and art being presented there for new and expanded audiences.

The B-17 Alliance Foundation is in the process of restoring the famous Lacey Lady, the most intact wartime B-17 Flying Fortress in the world to return it to its original flying glory. State funds will support space to complete restoration to airworthy condition of the historic aircraft that will be the future centerpiece of a growing destination point and WWII educational center located at McNary Field in Salem.

These Salem efforts - and the other CREF projects - support valuable, large and small efforts to use culture to make our communities better and to bring Oregonians and visitors together to experience places that are special, unique and define who and what we are.

I encourage you to support the package of capital projects included in HB 3191.

Sincerely,

Christine D'Arcy
Salem, Oregon