

Submitter: Erik Ly
On Behalf Of: PSU Performing Arts
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5505

Dear Co-Chair Fred Girod, Co-Chair Rob Nosse and Members of the Subcommittee on Capital Construction,

I'm writing in strong support of authorizing \$85 million in Article-G Bonds for the Performing Arts + Culture Center (PACC) as part of Portland State's Capital Construction Bond Request.

The Portland City Council has committed to building a new, state-of-the-art venue before renovating the seismically vulnerable Keller Auditorium. This new space—to be situated on the PSU campus—will become a key part of a revitalized downtown Portland, creating a thriving arts and education district.

As a first-generation graduate student here at Portland State, I have witnessed and been impacted firsthand by Portland State's incredible access mission and the experience of working and learning each day here in downtown Portland. My support of this project is motivated by my own experiences at PSU and it is evident to me how a project of this ambition and scale will inspire and enrich for generations to come.

The PACC is a long-term investment with statewide impact. It will:

Restore confidence in downtown Portland as a destination for culture, learning, and investment.

Support PSU students and Oregon's K-12 schools with access to performance and learning spaces.

Expand Oregon's arts ecosystem with accessible venues for diverse artists and audiences.

Create and protect jobs—more than 2,000 construction jobs and hundreds of long-term arts and venue positions.

Catalyze development on the only available large-scale site left downtown.

Not only am I here as a PSU student, but I'm also here as a proud resident and community member of our beautiful city. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the social, cultural, and political difficulties our city has faced in the past recent years - and despite all this, we stand resilient. However, now is the chance to seize the moment and ensure that our city can continue to thrive on a meaningful, global scale.

This is a rare opportunity to help reshape Portland's future. Please support Portland State's Capital Construction Bond Request and invest in the PACC.

Sincerely,
Erik Ly