

**School of Music & Theater**

College of the Arts

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**Testimony Template in Support of PSU's \$85M Request for the Performing Arts and Culture Center (PACC)**

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

My name is Li Kuang, and I am a music professor at Portland State University, School of Music & Theater. I'm writing to voice my strong support for Portland State University's request for \$85 million in Article XI-G bonds to help fund the development of the Performing Arts and Culture Center (PACC).

As a music professor at Portland State University, the vision of a new, state-of-the-art performing arts building represents more than just bricks and mortar—it is a transformative investment in our students, our artistic community, and the future of our university.

For my students, many of whom come from diverse and often underrepresented backgrounds, this building would be a space of inspiration and opportunity. It would provide access to the kinds of professional-grade rehearsal spaces, performance venues, and collaborative environments that reflect the standards of the field they aspire to enter. It would validate their commitment to the arts and prepare them to thrive in a highly competitive world.

For my own career and that of my colleagues, a new building signals that Portland State is serious about supporting excellence in the performing arts. It affirms the importance of our work as educators, performers, and researchers. It would allow us to bring in world-class guest artists, host festivals, and lead high-level productions that elevate the profile of our programs and attract outstanding students and collaborators from across the country and beyond.

For the School of Music & Theater, this new facility would be a catalyst for innovation, growth, and recruitment. It would help us better serve our students and the community with performances that inspire and connect, and it would enable us to fully live into our role as a cultural and educational leader in the region.

And for the university as a whole, a landmark performing arts building is not just about the arts—it is about identity, vision, and impact. It would stand as a visible and lasting symbol of PSU's commitment to creativity, interdisciplinary learning, and community engagement. It would open the door for deeper partnerships with Portland's vibrant arts scene and reinforce PSU's presence as a major urban university with a bold future.

This project is a once-in-a-generation opportunity. It has the power to redefine what's possible for our students and elevate the role of the arts on our campus and in our city. I am proud to support it and hopeful for what it will bring.

I urge you to fully fund PSU's \$85 million request. Let's invest in the arts, in students, and in the future of downtown Portland.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Li Kuang', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Li Kuang, DMA  
Trombone Professor  
Director of PSU Trombone Choir & Trombone Ensemble  
Portland State University  
School of Music & Theater