

College of the Arts

School of Music and Theater

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

My name is Christopher Whyte and I am Assistant Professor of Music in the Portland State University School of Music and Theater, where I serve as Percussion Area Coordinator, working closely with and mentoring a cohort of dedicated future performers, educators, composers, and artists. 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).

The City of Portland has served as Oregon's Cultural Capital for decades, and we are at a critical crossroads for our city, state, and region. I grew up attending shows at the Keller Auditorium, and participating in musical activities at Portland State's Lincoln Hall. The incredible improvements and vision exemplified by the new Performing Arts and Culture Center at Portland State means elevating the arts community in Oregon into a new stratosphere regionally, nationally, and internationally. A facility of this nature enables a level of artistic endeavor, and all of the economic benefits that come with it, which Oregon has never seen before. It is crucial that we seize the opportunity for our city and the people of our state to fulfill our full potential, and that we usher in a new era of arts and culture in Portland.

This once-in-a-century opportunity will create a nationally distinct performing arts and education hub in the heart of downtown Portland. This project is not just about replacing a building—it's about transforming our city.

This is a smart, strategic investment with many linked benefits, including:

- **Revitalizing downtown Portland**, attracting residents, businesses, and visitors
- **Strengthening the arts ecosystem** with accessible venues for diverse artists and organizations
- **Supporting Oregon's students** with transformative learning and career opportunities in the performing arts
- **Creating and preserving good jobs**—including union jobs at Keller and more than 2,000 new construction jobs
- **Attracting additional investment** and unlock the potential of surrounding developable land

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 'C. Whyte', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Christopher Whyte
Assistant Professor of Music
Percussion Area Coordinator
Portland State University