



PO Box 99, Portland, OR 97207 • 503-245-1600  
info@whitebird.org • www.whitebird.org

April 30, 2025

Portland State University  
Subcommittee on Capital Construction  
1825 SW Broadway  
Portland, OR 97201

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

On behalf of White Bird, we are writing to express our strong support for Portland State University's request for \$85 million in Article XI(G) Bond funding to build academic facilities as part of a state-of-the-art Performing Arts and Culture Center.

White Bird is nearing the end of its 27<sup>th</sup> season of bringing the best contemporary dance from around the world to Portland, Oregon. Each season we serve close to 20,000 people of all ages and backgrounds through our performances and educational and outreach programs. As stated in our mission, "White Bird strongly believes in making dance exciting, educational, equitable and accessible to everyone, young and old, of all social backgrounds, and through contributed income and sponsorships, is able to facilitate outreach to schools and keep ticket prices affordable."

White Bird's relationship with Portland State University goes back to the 2000-2001 season, when we inaugurated the White Bird-PSU Dance Series at Lincoln Hall, focused on exceptional dance artists and small to mid-size dance companies. Renamed White Bird Uncaged in 2009, we continue to use Lincoln Performance Hall as one of our primary venues. We also have had a very long-term relationship with Portland 5 Centers for the Arts, since we present, on a regular basis, at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall, the Newmark Theatre, and the Keller Auditorium.

The proposed new Performing Arts and Culture Center will be of enormous benefit to White Bird and our annual dance season. We expect to use the complex on a regular basis, for our performances, rehearsal space for certain visiting dance companies, and meetings and conferences related to the arts in the Portland region.

*continued*

This once-in-a-century opportunity will create a nationally distinct performing arts and education hub in the heart of downtown Portland. With the City of Portland committed to replacing the aging and seismically vulnerable Keller Auditorium, this project is not just about replacing a building—it's about transforming our city. Located just blocks from the future renovated Keller, the new PACC will anchor a thriving entertainment and education district that restores confidence in downtown Portland and elevates Oregon's statewide arts ecosystem.

The Performing Art + Culture Center planned for the PSU campus will include a large, Broadway-capable theater owned and operated by the City of Portland. The plans also call for a privately financed hotel and conference facilities and spaces for a resident arts organization. But the exciting part, from our perspective, is that the complex will include a community theater (of 800-1,200 seats) and other academic spaces that will be owned by PSU and available to community partners.

The PSU-owned theater, partially funded with this state bond request, will fill a size gap in Oregon's performing arts ecosystem. It will ultimately support a broader array of performances serving multi-generational and diverse communities. The theater will also be shared with local arts and culture organizations and help foster K-12 collaborations to inspire the young people who will be tomorrow's artists, performers and theater goers.

Thank you for your service and consideration of this request. Portland, and Portland State University, can do big things. We look forward to celebrating the opening of this center with you.

Sincerely,



Graham Cole  
Executive Director



Walter Jaffe & Paul King  
White Bird Board Co-Chairs