

April 30, 2025

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

Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Nosse, and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of Portland Playhouse, I am 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.

Portland Playhouse is a professional theater company dedicated to producing quality, intimate performances while delivering transformative educational programs to hundreds of students through our Fall Festival of Shakespeare and Spring Social Justice Festival. We support this project because it will provide the mid-sized venue (800-1,200 seats) that Portland's arts ecosystem desperately needs, create new opportunities for K-12 arts education partnerships, and help revitalize downtown Portland by establishing a vibrant cultural hub where diverse communities can gather and connect.

This once-in-a-century opportunity will create a nationally distinct performing arts and education center in downtown Portland. With the City committed to replacing the aging Keller Auditorium, this project will transform our city by anchoring an entertainment and education district that restores confidence in downtown and elevates Oregon's statewide arts ecosystem.

The Performing Arts + Culture Center will include a large, Broadway-capable theater owned by the City of Portland, alongside privately financed hotel and conference facilities. **Most importantly for community organizations like ours, the PSU-owned theater and academic spaces will fill a critical gap in Oregon's performing arts infrastructure, support a broader array of performances serving multi-generational and diverse communities, and foster vital K-12 collaborations that will inspire tomorrow's artists and audiences.**

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,

Brian Weaver,

Artistic Director Portland Playhouse



Brian Weaver
Founding Artistic Director

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In Memorium

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