



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

On behalf of Portland Opera, 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.

Our mission is to inspire and uplift our audiences by sharing compelling stories through opera, while cultivating a vibrant and inclusive artistic culture.

We proudly support the Portland State University Performing Arts Center because it aligns with our core values of artistic excellence, education, and community engagement. This project not only enhances access to high-quality arts education for the next generation of performers and creators but also strengthens the cultural infrastructure of our city. By investing in a world-class facility for performance and learning, we are helping to nurture talent, elevate local voices, and ensure that Portland remains a thriving center for the arts.

Moreover, we see this partnership as a vital part of downtown Portland's revitalization. A dynamic performing arts center draws people into the heart of the city, fostering economic activity and reinforcing Portland's identity as a creative and innovative community. Through this collaboration, Portland Opera affirms its dedication to shaping a vibrant cultural future that benefits everyone.

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,

*Carole Mose*

Portland Opera Board Chair

*Sue Dixon*

General Director & CEO

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ANNIVERSARY

