



May 1, 2025

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

I am writing to indicate Metropolitan Youth Symphony's strong support for Portland State University's request for \$85 million in Article XI(G) Bond funding to build academic facilities as part of the PSU Performing Arts and Culture Center (PACC).

Metropolitan Youth Symphony is 445 students strong, with 15 ensembles from orchestra to jazz. In addition, 78 low-income students receive free musical instruction and instruments. MYS programs five concerts at the Portland's venues and eight concerts at community venues throughout the metro area.

MYS has long-standing relationships with the exceptional faculty at PSU's school of music, and periodically uses space at Lincoln Hall for masterclasses, composition sessions, presentations with guest artists, and a mid-season chamber music program. Unfortunately, the performance spaces in Lincoln Hall are too small to accommodate our main concerts.

It is in fact difficult for us to find halls that can accommodate 800-1,000 people with stages large enough for a full orchestra to perform. We find ourselves traveling to Vancouver to play in the concert hall at Skyview High School, and to Newberg, to use Bauman Auditorium at George Fox University. Performing so far from Portland limits attendance from the greater community and for some families, is an undue burden.

We are thrilled with PSU's vision to create a high caliber performing arts and education hub that will rival the nation's best, in the heart of Portland. With the City of Portland's commitment to replace the seismically deficient Keller Auditorium, this project will be a major factor in Portland's revival. Located just blocks from the future renovated Keller, PSU's PACC will anchor a thriving arts district that restores confidence in downtown Portland and elevates Oregon's statewide arts ecosystem.

The Performing Art + Culture Center located on the PSU campus will include a large, Broadway-capable theater owned and operated by the City of Portland and a privately financed hotel with conference facilities and space for a resident arts organization. Very exciting for MYS is the inclusion of a community theater (800-1,200 seats) and new academic spaces that will be 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 support a broader array of performances serving multi-generational and diverse communities. The theater will also welcome local arts and culture organizations and help foster K-12 collaborations to inspire the young people who will be tomorrow's artists, performers, theater goers, and, in many cases, leaders.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We are grateful for all that you do to serve Oregon and look forward to seeing you at PSU's Performing Arts and Culture Center! Even, perhaps, at a MYS concert!

Sincerely,

Diana Scoggins
Executive Director

Raúl Gómez-Rojas
Music Director