



May 1, 2025

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

On behalf of Open Space,, 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.

Open Space is a creative container for dance and movement where EVERY body is welcome. Open Space contracts 6-8 dancers for our Company Season, which includes 4 annual productions. The School at Open Space enrolls 190 students between the ages of 2 and 21 years of age. The school awards over \$55,000 in scholarships annually and does not turn any family away for lack of funds. Open Space's Creative Container offers open classes for adults in ballet, contemporary, improvisation and composition, contemporary jazz, and workshops in a variety of styles; 25% of which are free to the community. Open Space is a registered nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. We perform at Portland's Newmark Theatre for our 80 cast-member holiday show, "NOT-Cracker," each December for over 2500 audience members. In addition, we produce a minimum of 3 major productions each year at our Creative Container in Kenton. We are desperately looking for a larger theater, since we can currently only seat 80 patrons and the Newmark is cost-prohibitive for our other shows.

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.

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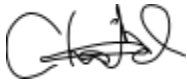
Open Space Dance is a registered 501(c)(3) // Tax ID: 35-2829

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.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CHANNIBAL'.

Charlene Hannibal
Executive Director, Open Space