

**Co-Chair Nosse, Co-Chair Girod, and members of the Committee,**

For the record, my name is Elizabeth Nye. I'm the Executive Director of Lan Su Chinese Garden in Portland's Old Town/Chinatown.

For 25 years, Lan Su has welcomed more than 100,000 visitors annually and served as both a cultural landmark and an economic anchor in our city.

We are requesting \$1.3 million in state lottery bond funding for pre-development of our expansion project, which fulfills our original vision of a year-round cultural center dedicated to strengthening Oregon's relationship with China.

That relationship is critical to Oregon's future. It supports trade, agriculture, technology, higher education, and tourism. But it is built on trust and long-term commitment.

Lan Su plays a unique role in sustaining that trust. It is one of the most visible signals that Oregon values this relationship and is willing to invest in it. When delegations, business leaders, and visitors from China come to Portland, Lan Su is often their first stop. It demonstrates, in a tangible way, that this partnership matters here.

Our 26,000-square-foot expansion will include classrooms, performance and exhibition space, community gathering areas, and new outdoor public space. It will allow us to expand education, host year-round programming, and deepen partnerships across the state.

This investment is also economically strategic. Lan Su drives tourism and small-business activity. Our visitors travel intentionally, stay longer, and support nearby restaurants, shops, and hotels.

At a time when Old Town and downtown continue to face real challenges, this project will transform an underused parking lot into an active cultural destination that builds confidence and vitality.

State support now leverages philanthropic investment already underway and ensures this project advances responsibly.

In Chinese culture, there is a saying: *"If you want to go far, go together."* This expansion reflects how Oregon chooses to engage with the world and with one another. It affirms our commitment to strong partnerships, cultural understanding, and communities where people feel seen, respected, and welcomed.

We respectfully ask for your support. Thank you.