

YALE UNION is led by a desire to support emerging and under-acknowledged artists, propose new modes of production, and stimulate the ongoing public discourse around art. 800 SE 10th Avenue, Portland OR 97214 [www.yaleunion.org](http://www.yaleunion.org)  
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March 3, 2015

Dear Chair Hass, and members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

The Yale Union Laundry Building, built in 1908, was placed on the National Registry of Historic Places for its ability to convey information about the socio-economic history of Portland with regards to the women's labor movement and the rise of the middle class. In 2008, Yale Union, our arts and culture non-profit organization, formed to activate and restore this historic building.

Since founding, Yale Union continues to repurpose the building to serve the organization's mission to support artists, produce new work, and stimulate the public discussion around art. Our programs serve a large and diverse audience through regular events, exhibitions, educational programs, film screenings, concerts and a library. A portion of the space is devoted to provide affordable production studios to start-up businesses; space for community events such as fundraising events for local elementary schools; and (through a community collaboration) subsidized art studio space to recent college graduates. Through these public services, the building has become an endeared, vital, and working gathering place for the community.

Our century old, unreinforced masonry structure requires a seismic upgrade. Substantial private donations from individuals and local foundations, including the Meyer Memorial Trust, have been contributed to hire a team of engineers and architects to develop a plan and budget to realize the goal of historic preservation and seismic upgrade for the building. However, these funds are not enough to achieve the necessary upgrades.

We have been working with a generous team of accountants, lawyers, and consultants to plan how existing tax credits (both new market and historic) can address substantial costs. The mayor's office has also requested a proposal to consider how they can contribute to fill part of the funding gap, whose pending submission requires additional support. We firmly believe that the Revitalize Main Street Act will make the difference between a continued stall and proactive investment.

This project will preserve and seismically upgrade an active community asset so that it is more accessible, safe, and valuable to its neighbors and the community it serves. The historic Yale Union project is one example of the potential benefits that can be realized by enacting SB 565; for this reason, we encourage you to pass SB 565.

Thank you,



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