



## culturaladvocacycoalition

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## Oregon's Cultural Institutions are Being Devastated by Covid-19

The Cultural Advocacy Coalition (CAC) urges you to ensure that Oregon's cultural institutions and their employees and performing artists get the help they need to survive in these unprecedented times. And the immediate need is **emergency funding to cover payroll costs** for organizations that have ceased operating, shutting off ticket sales and admission fees. And in many cases, these same organizations are facing significant cash outflows for refunds for cancelled performances.

As the New York Times has reported:

“The five sectors experiencing the most direct and immediate collapse in demand or facing government-mandated shutdowns because of coronavirus are air transportation; **performing arts** and sports; gambling and recreation; hotels and other lodging; and restaurants and bars.” *The Upshot, New York Times, March 16, 2020.*

In Oregon starting last week, from Portland to Lincoln City, from Eugene to Baker City, and in nearly every community in between, musical and theatre performances have been cancelled and museums have closed in order to comply with the requirements intended to slow the spread of Covid-19.

The nonprofit arts and culture sector is a significant industry in the State of Oregon—one that generates **\$687 million in total economic activity**. This spending—\$364.1 million by nonprofit arts and cultural organizations and an additional \$323 million in event-related spending by their audiences—supports **22,299 full-time equivalent jobs**, generates \$469.5 million in household income to local residents, and delivers \$53 million in local and state government revenue. <sup>1</sup>

The financial impacts of Covid-19 on our cultural institutions and their employees and performing artists is already huge. The attached partial list of impacts identified in just the last few days from a few of our CAC members totals millions of dollars. And the impact grows rapidly as the closures are extended.

Please don't forget about the help needed by Oregon's cultural organizations as you work to address Covid-19 impacts. If we lose them, we may never get them back.

<sup>1</sup>*Arts and Economy Prosperity 5: The Economic Impact of Non-Profits Arts and Cultural Organizations and their Audiences in the State of Oregon, Americans for the Arts, 2017, Page 7.*