

Analysis  
**Parks and Recreation Department**  
Historic Revitalization

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**Analyst:** Matt Stayner

**Request:** Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the National Park Service, Historic Revitalization Sub-Grant Program, in the amount of \$650,000 for the rehabilitation and restoration of historic theaters throughout the state.

**Analysis:** The federal grant program aims to support the rehabilitation of historic properties that are either listed, or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) would use the funding to provide sub-grants to eligible entities for projects in rural communities as defined by the Census Bureau. OPRD has been working in partnership with the Oregon Cultural Trust and Restore Oregon to provide outreach and technical assistance to historic theaters identified in a needs assessment conducted by the University of Oregon in 2015. OPRD anticipates using the federal funding to continue outreach activities and provide up to eight grants to local communities. Sub-grant recipients would be required to provide matching funding of at least 20% of the funding awarded.

Notification of the federal grant opportunity was received by OPRD on December 29, 2018. The deadline for applying is April 1, 2019. If successful, OPRD intends to return to the Legislature, or appropriate interim authority, to seek expenditure authority for the actual amount awarded.

**Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation:** Approve the request

# Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation Wittekind

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**Request:** Authorization to apply for a \$650,000 federal grant from the National Park Service for historic preservation.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Discussion:** The National Park Service Historic Revitalization Sub-grant Program announced a grant opportunity on December 29, 2018. The goal of the grant is to support the rehabilitation of historic properties which will foster economic development of rural communities through grants to states, tribes, local governments and non-profits. The grant application deadline is March 1, 2019.

If awarded, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), a division of Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, proposes to use grant funds for historic theaters in rural communities creating a third prong of an ongoing theater project. The theater project was created as a result of a 2015 University of Oregon assessment of statewide historic theater needs. The assessment led to partnership among SHPO, Oregon Cultural Trust and Restore Oregon to conduct outreach and offer technical support to historic theaters.

With the requested grant amount, SHPO expects to award six to eight grants in rural communities around the state with the majority going towards building rehabilitation totaling \$630,000. The remaining \$20,000 would be put towards outreach for the program through Restore Oregon.

Matching funds are not a requirement of the grant; however, in an effort to make the grant more competitive a 20 percent match will be required by theater owners thus creating an impact of over \$750,000. It has been the experience of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department that grant projects are more successful with property owner contribution.



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Parks and Recreation Department

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February 6, 2019

Senator Betsy Johnson  
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward  
Representative Dan Rayfield  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) requests approval to submit a \$650,000 federal grant application to the National Park Service (Historic Revitalization Sub-grant Program). The Department was notified of this competitive opportunity on December 29, 2018. The deadline for applications is March 1, 2019.

The goal of the Historic Revitalization Sub-grant Program is to support the rehabilitation of historic properties in order to foster economic development of rural communities through grants to states, tribes, local governments, and non-profits. This grant fits within OPRD's mission, which includes protecting outstanding cultural, historic, and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations. It is also fully aligned with the goals of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), which is a division of OPRD.

The SHPO's application will propose to sub-grant the majority of the funds to historic theaters in rural communities, building on a statewide historic theaters needs assessment conducted by the University of Oregon in 2015. That assessment led to a partnership among the SHPO, the Oregon Cultural Trust, and the statewide preservation nonprofit, Restore Oregon, to conduct outreach and offer technical support to historic theaters across the state in 2016-2018.

If successful, this grant will provide funds for the third prong of the theater project: (a) additional outreach to theaters; and (b) physical rehabilitation of theaters either listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Restore Oregon would again partner with the SHPO to ensure continuity of services and relationships in the theater community.

The Historic Revitalization Sub-grant Program funds are federal funds that do not require a match. OPRD is providing matching staff time for the administration of this grant that will come from SHPO. No additional staff is required. If the grant is awarded, the Department will request expenditure limitation from the appropriate Legislative Committee or the Emergency Board.

Sincerely,

Lisa Sumption  
Director