

Oregon State Legislature Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Testimony on behalf of SB5534 — May 7, 2021

Dear Co-Chairs Sen. Girod and Rep. Holvey, and honored members of the joint subcommittee,

For the record, my name is Dorcas Holzapfel and I live in Otis. As you consider how to allocate precious capital construction funds, I urge you to prioritize the shovel-ready projects that were delayed last year when lottery bond sales were cancelled. This list includes the Lincoln City Cultural Plaza, our plan to improve the 2.5 acres around the Lincoln City Cultural Center and its physical home, the historic Delake School.

I am providing testimony to you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the nonprofit LCCC. But anyone who drives by the site could testify that this project is necessary and long overdue. This landmark is surrounded by broken sidewalks, alligatored pavement and rusty fencing, with insufficient lighting for safety and security. Our nonprofit has spent the last 15 years and \$1.5 Million renovating the interior of the school, creating a well-equipped and comfortable place to enjoy art exhibits, concerts, children's plays and civic gatherings. Before the pandemic, we were hosting 350 events a year, attended by 45,000 people. With this project, we seek to make the outdoors work as well as the indoors, and support economic vitality through arts and culture.

The Plaza improvements include a redesigned traffic plan, adequate lighting for evening safety and other upgrades required by city code. A drivable meandering path, accessible for both handicapped persons and vendor vehicles, will create a pedestrian friendly envelope around the building. Local partners (the Rotary Club, city's Percent for Art committee and others), have already pledged large pieces of public art. This is a capacity building project on a publicly owned land that, with the help of this funding, will become a showplace of community pride and energy. In addition, the Plaza would provide several immediate benefits:

- **Economic impact:** Improved vendor amenities and smarter design will hundreds of small businesses like farmers, jewelry makers, food carts and bakers to have easier access to customers.
- **Arts and Culture Impact:** Open, welcoming and full of art, the Plaza will enable more universal access to the benefits of arts, culture and civic engagement, regardless of their age, mobility or income level.
- **Tourism Impact:** More than 8.8 million cars drive by on Hwy. 101 annually. Plaza features will provide an artistic magnet and an accessible destination, inviting visitors to partake in the arts and culture programs found within.
- **Community Impact:** Retirement income is one of the largest industries in our community. A thriving cultural arts center will make Lincoln City an even more attractive retirement destination.

The success of our Invest in Inspiration capital campaign, in a county that is known for its low hospitality wages and chronic economic challenges, shows our community's enthusiastic commitment to the Plaza project. But delays and inflation have truly taken their toll on our budget, and we need your help. A secured \$1.8M allocation for the Lincoln City Cultural Plaza, as found in SB5534, would make this transformational project a reality.

As partners with the City of Lincoln City and the hard-working staff members who work to manage visitors and our tourist-oriented economy, we also support the request for the D River Wayside information center. Both projects are vital to the growth of our city.

Thank you for your consideration,



Dorcas Holzapfel, Chair
Adrienne Greene, Vice Chair
Binaya Dangol, Secretary
Dennis Civiello, Treasurer
Greg Berton, Past Chair
Lincoln City Cultural Center Board of Directors