

Submitter: Victoria Frey
On Behalf Of: Portland Institute for Contemporary Art
Committee: House Committee On Economic Recovery and Prosperity
Measure: HB4040

I am writing in support for HB4040. As a non-profit art organization reliant on ticket income and concession revenues to support our programming and service to our community, we have been hard hit through the pandemic. Shut downs and limited audiences has resulted in a 36% loss in income while contributed income is waning. This period has also caused a severe increase in the costs of operating the venue - increased costs of staffing and safety protocols and limited availability of technical staff continue. Labor costs have skyrocketed as tech crews and stage hands are suffering the loss of income. Hourly rates have jumped almost 30% in the past year alone. Those formerly comfortable in the gig economy are scrambling to meet the rising costs of living in Portland. In the past, our festival has hired over 90 local arts workers and 250 artists a year, rented venues throughout the city, spending an estimated \$400,000 locally annually.

Our annual TBA Festival draws 30% of our audiences (over 25,000) from out of state - contributing to the local economy. A number of cultural tourists and professional delegations from across the country and around the globe joined Portland audiences to create a tremendous economic impact for our city's restaurants, retail establishments and hotels throughout Portland. TBA audiences spend over \$641,340* at non-TBA sites and activities during the 11-day even. Curators and performance venues from all over the US and Europe attend to provide opportunity to local and regional artists. The pandemic has caused us to shut down this 20 year festival for the past 2 years and pivot it on online streaming and few in person outdoor or smaller events. Not only are we losing the ticket and concession income, but artists in our community are not seeing touring opportunities. The tourism we draw is not putting money into hotels, restaurants and other venues also hit hard during COVID.

Our mission and venue are important to our community. Not only are we serving artists and audiences, we are also a venue sharing space with other organizations and artists such as Black Arts Ecology Portland, Friends of Noise, First Nation Performing Arts, and many others. We open our building for community organizing to feed the houseless population in our neighborhood, gather PPE and other supplies for those in need, providing space for artists to create new work through equipment loans and free space. None of this is possible without support now. Non-profit organization like ours always operate on a narrow margin and a lot of passion and commitment from our staff and community. Support from HB4040 will allow us to continue our work as we pivot to the new normal in our field and adjust our funding

models. Not only do our venue contribute to our local economy but the livability of our state.