

To: House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity.

February 7, 2022

Imago Theatre began providing needed performing arts space to the city in 1994 and continues to this day. We are located at 17 SE 8th avenue. Since 1994, many of the large and small dance and theatre institutions have rented the theatre for performances, theatrical presentations, lectures, and dance productions; including Artist Repertory Theatre, Profile Theatre, Boom Arts, White Bird and many individual artists. The venue is home to our company Imago Theatre which is world acclaimed for our original family theatre works FROGZ and ZooZoo.

Our industry has been heavily impacted due to Covid-19. Imago Theatre suspended our primary revenue streams (family shows) to allow for more families to get vaccinated. Our other source of income - rental income from theatre and arts organizations is far below our revenue from 2019/2020. Needless to say the Omicron variant has added even a tougher challenge to an already difficult time.

We ask that you support HB 4040 to allow our organization to balance our budget for this coming year and to support our venue for our peer organizations in the Portland area. Financial support from this bill will enable us to remain solvent and enable us continue to provide an affordable inner-city art space to many organizations and individual artists.

Our industry is one of the most difficult to keep functioning during these difficult times. I am sure you would agree that the loss of our cultural venues in the state would be a devastation to our cultural identity. Please, please support HB 4040.

Jerry Mouawad and Carol Triffle

Artistic Co-Directors