



CROSSROADS CARNEGIE ART CENTER

Art for Everyone

2020 Auburn Ave Baker City OR 97814 541-523-5369 www.crossroads-arts.org

Monday, January 31, 2022

Dear Rep. Lively and Members of the House Economic Recovery Committee,

As the Executive Director of Crossroads Carnegie Art Center, the oldest continuously operating art center East of the Cascades serving Baker County, Oregon I respectfully ask for your vote to pass HB #4040 which will provide \$50 million dollar in relief to Oregon's Arts and Culture sector.

In March of 2020, Crossroads closed our doors for 50 days to help stop the spread of Covid-19. We reopened on May 15, 2020 and have not closed since. No one was laid off and everyone was paid as they worked from home. We have and continue to follow all OHA and CDC guidelines as our programs serve young and old, people from all walks of life and health conditions. We have continued to have First Friday Art Openings to much small audiences. We continue to have youth and adult art education classes in small groups which gives our resident hope of some normalcy but eliminates any profitability. We are building back critical after school programs that help at-risk youth as they struggle with mental and physical health challenges. The need for our program is huge but with only 8 students per class the lack of teachers and classroom spaces limits our ability to help kids.

Crossroads has received extraordinary support from foundations, PPP 1 and 2, CARES Act, and the generosity of our community. Thank you! While 2020 was bad, 2021 financially was worse. We have a 91% decrease in Net Income for 2021 when compared to 2020.

Arts and Culture is the tie that binds a community. It is the concert in the park, a movie, a show, the beauty of a painting or learning how to make art that gives meaning and purpose to a stress filled life. Arts and Culture during Covid has reinvented itself and continue to "try" to help heal our polarized communities. We will be the last sector to rebound and yet the restaurants, motels, gift shops and others that depend on arts and culture need us to get back open bringing back our audiences. To do so, we must have financial help to build back one of the most important sectors to the Oregon Economy. Please dedicate \$50 Million dollars to the Arts from HB #4040.

Thank you so very much!

Ginger L Savage
Executive Director
Crossroads Carnegie Art Center
Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon Board Member
Baker County Cultural Coalition Chair
Baker County Historical Society President