



**OREGON  
MUSEUMS  
ASSOCIATION**

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Dear House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity,

I am writing today to urge you to support HB 4040 during the upcoming short session. This act would be vital to the continued economic recovery of cultural organizations in our state.

In March 2020, the American Alliance of Museums estimated that museums nationwide were losing \$33 million per day, and that without support up to 30% of museums, mostly in rural areas, would not reopen. This is a big deal to our state, as economic impact data compiled by the American Alliance of Museums and Oxford Economics in 2017 showed that museums in Oregon contribute \$585 million a year to the U.S. economy. In July 2020, Oregon Legislative Emergency Board allocated \$25,984,872 for the Coronavirus Relief Funds for Cultural Support (CRFCS) to support arts and cultural organizations suffering economically from pandemic closures. These funds supported 621 cultural organizations through the beginning of the pandemic.

As the Vice President and Membership Chair of the Oregon Museums Association (OMA), I have seen first-hand the impact that the first round of cultural organization recovery grants made in the museum industry. OMA and 70 of OMA's 148 institutional members received vital support from CRFCS. Many of them used this funding to hire back furloughed staff and reopen, or to bolster operations that were at otherwise reduced capacities.

Funding from CRFCS was only available through December 2020. Since then, museums in Oregon have incurred further losses from reduced visitation to indoor venues, reduced school field trips, and reduced tourism. HB 4040 would address these continued needs, and help museums and cultural organizations further recover from the losses sustained over the past two years.

Sincerely,

Janice Crane