

2025-27 Endorsed Capital Projects

The Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon received 24 applications for 2023-25 Cultural Resources Economic Funds (CREF) for arts and culture capital projects across the state. We evaluated these applications for readiness for state investment in an extensive peer review process and with expertise from the Oregon Arts Commission and the Oregon Cultural Trust.

We recommend the following package of 14 projects totaling \$9.325 million because of their geographic and cultural diversity, economic and community impact, and viability in expanding access to arts and culture.

B17 Alliance Foundation, Salem

\$350,000: Hangar purchase for iconic B-17G



Funds will be used to purchase Hangar C, home of the B-17G Lacey Lady and its museum, ensuring stability for ongoing restoration and education efforts. Located near an aviation-focused high school, this acquisition supports youth engagement, hands-on learning, and the continued work of over 100 volunteers, many of whom are veterans.

Columbia River Maritime Museum, Astoria

\$700,000: Mariners Hall project



Mariners Hall will boost the North Coast's economy and quality of life with cultural and educational experiences. The new building will feature maritime heritage displays, youth-focused STEM exhibits, and Indigenous exhibits. With expanded parking, Mariners Hall will attract more visitors, supporting local businesses and enriching thousands of students' education.

Coos Art Museum, Coos Bay

\$325,000: Restore and revamp museum



CREF funding will restore and revamp the only art museum on the Oregon Coast, located in downtown Coos Bay. This facelift will make the Art Deco building more accessible and foster a vibrant cultural hub in rural Oregon.

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Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre, Baker City

\$600,000: Baker Orpheum Theatre renovation



Eastern Oregon Regional Theatre is renovating an 1889 historic theater building on Main Street in Baker City to serve local performing artists and attract national touring groups. During demolition they discovered there had never been a basement in this space. This grant will fund basement construction on concrete micro-piles reaching 72 feet to bedrock required for seismic stability.

High Desert Museum, Bend

\$2 million: Addition and renovation



The High Desert Museum plans a new wing to meet growing demand in Central Oregon, featuring new gathering spaces, a dedicated art gallery, and classrooms, doubling educational capacity. It will also renovate the exhibition dedicated to Indigenous cultures. Opened in 1982, the museum attracts 225,000 visitors annually, contributing \$20 million to the local economy.

Historic Jacksonville, Jacksonville

\$150,000: Museum Without Walls project



Jacksonville's "Museum without Walls" project will transform the 1881 Old City Hall into a museum hub with interactive exhibits, sharing the town's history and guiding visitors on how to explore the National Historic Landmark District through physical and virtual tours.

Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center, Joseph

\$300,000: Site development for education



The Maxville Townsite, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, provides one of the few windows into the migration of African Americans to the Pacific Northwest at a time when exclusionary laws and sundown codes were in place. Restoration, infrastructure upgrades, and additional funding will expand educational programs, tourism, and internships, engaging over 13,000 people annually.

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Mt Hood Cultural Center and Museum, Government Camp

\$450,000: Building expansion



This project is Phase 1 of a three-phase facility expansion. It provides more archival storage and literally creates the structural footings to support the other two expansions. The full facility expansion provides a larger community space, enlarged galleries, a research library, and an expanded store.

Museum at Warm Springs, Warm Springs

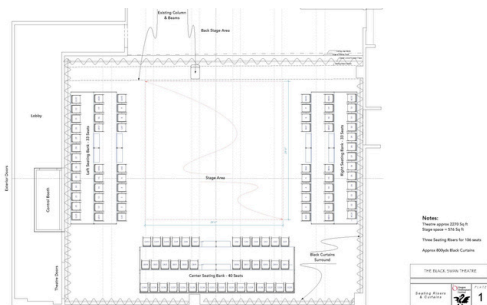
\$1.5 million: Renewal and exhibit updates



The permanent exhibit “speaks” to the museum visitor as well as to Tribal members of all ages as a testament of their origins, relationships, Tribal sovereignty, and immutable values. The goal is the evolving permanent exhibit will incorporate state-of-the-art technology and infrastructure that is maintainable and renewable.

Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Ashland

\$375,000: Black Swan Theatre renovation



The Oregon Shakespeare Festival needs a space for its New Works commissioning program. The Black Swan Theatre, last upgraded in 1976 and decommissioned in 2002, requires significant renovations, additions, and ADA accommodations to become usable again for readings, workshops, and development of new theatrical works.

PHAME, Portland

\$600,000: New building



PHAME has a bold vision: a one-of-a-kind, fully accessible, state-of-the-art arts and community space for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This new home will empower adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to reach their artistic potential and will show that people with developmental disabilities are valued in our community as artists and human beings,

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Salem Art Museum, Salem

\$175,000: Re-imagining Bush House Museum

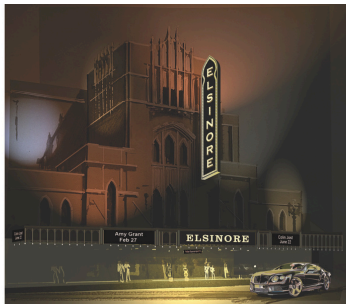


The Salem Art Association is undertaking a multi-phase project to preserve and reinterpret the historic Bush House Museum.

The goals are to provide a more inclusive account of its inhabitants and staff, preserve the house and furnishings, and expand ADA-compliant accessibility for all visitors.

The Historic Elsinore Theatre, Salem

\$350,000: Renovation of theatre/new signage



As its 2026 centennial nears, the Elsinore Theatre is restoring historic façade features, including a 23-foot lighted vertical blade sign, missing since 1962, and Gothic roofline ornamentation. These restorations will enhance the theater's iconic presence as it continues to offer arts and cultural performances to the community.

World Forestry Center, Portland

\$1 million: Campus transformation project



The World Forestry Center is redeveloping its 5.5-acre campus with a new Mass Timber Experience Center, complementing the Discovery Museum. The center will feature hands-on exhibitions, speaker series, art installations, and cultural performances to engage the public on critical issues impacting the health of forests and communities.