

THE JAZZ STATION
EUGENE'S HOME FOR LIVE JAZZ
P.O. BOX 12194
EUGENE, OR 97440

January 30, 2023

To: Oregon Legislature
House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business

We write you in the hopes that the Oregon Legislature passes HB2459 to support the Arts and Entertainment businesses and artists of Oregon.

The Jazz Station currently serves as the only jazz venue in Oregon outside of Portland. Our club has been a mainstay for over 15 years located in the heart of downtown Eugene. We are a 70-seat capacity non-profit venue that offers musicians, students and community members a neighborly, intimate place to share in the musical moment, not unlike the storied clubs where the spirit of jazz originally blossomed. We reside on the downtown Eugene entertainment corridor; between The Shedd on one end of Broadway St. and The Contemporary Theatre located on the other.

We exist only because of our steadfast community support from our audience-goers and members. However, after a 17-month closure from March 2020 to September 2021, we are now facing a completely different economic business picture. Our expenses have increased over 40% from 2019 to 2023. All costs have increased from rent and payroll to garbage collection and concession costs. In response, we have raised our prices.

2022 was our first full year of operation since the epidemic began, however major challenges and long-term effects have persisted:

- Our audience attendance is down 25% from 8,100 tickets sold in 2019 compared to 6,100 in 2022. People are still hesitant to share space indoors.
- Expenses are dramatically up – over 40%.
- 1 -2 shows per month on average have been cancelled due to Covid. (184 shows were presented in 2019 compared to 162 in 2023.)

The Jazz Station is an invaluable community resource and occupies a unique niche in our local arts scene. It's the only place where students from University of Oregon, Lane Community College and local high schools and middle schools can come together to collaborate and play. Over 100 student musicians get the chance to make new musical connections, and hone their talents in a real-life jazz performance setting.

In addition, The Jazz Station hosts over 500 local, regional and national musicians annually to our stage producing over \$130,000 in ticket and concession earned income.

Please help preserve our community jewel called The Jazz Station, and along with it our quintessential American musical art form.

Sincerely,

Eve McClure, Treasurer and Volunteer Grant and Operations Committee Member
Steve Owen, President and Volunteer Booking Committee Member