



PSU  
Foundation  
PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

# THE CREATIVE OPPORTUNITY

— a new home —

FOR ART + DESIGN AT  
PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY



## A NEW HOME FOR A SIGNATURE PROGRAM

**TOP 15**

ART + DESIGN PROGRAMS  
AMONG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**MOST  
DIVERSE**

ART + DESIGN  
PROGRAM IN OREGON

**TOP 15**

GRAPHIC DESIGN  
PROGRAMS

**1,200+**

ART + DESIGN  
STUDENTS

**>40%**

STUDENTS IDENTIFY  
AS BIPOC

**4 UNDERGRAD  
2 GRADUATE**

ART + DESIGN  
DEGREE PROGRAMS

PSU's current Art + Design programs are spread over five locations on campus with the main buildings awkwardly configured. The layouts have never been optimized with Art + Design pedagogy in mind; cramped labs and outdated equipment limit what can be taught and practiced.

Not only do existing facilities create a lack of a central gathering space to build community among faculty and students, they also lack a "front door"—a means to welcome our neighbors and create a true hub of activity.

The new space will redefine what is possible by bringing students, faculty, and the wider community together in one place for the first time. We envision a new home for Art + Design with light-filled studios and classrooms, sufficient space for material storage, and flexible locations for exhibition and co-working.

The center will be intentionally designed to encourage collaboration—not only for the College of the Arts, but for the entire PSU community. By offering amenities such as a catalyst lab available to all faculty and students, the center will foster belonging, innovation and success from the ground up.

### PROJECT DETAILS

**\$100M**

TOTAL PROJECT COST

**\$50M**

STATE BOND FUNDING ALREADY COMMITTED

**\$5M**

PHILANTHROPIC MATCHING FUNDS COMMITTED

### 2023 LEGISLATIVE ASK

**\$4.28M**

XI-G BONDS

**\$22.72M**

XI-Q BONDS

**\$16M**

XI-F BONDS

**Note:** This ask is part of a PSU request to finish two projects in which the legislature has already invested.





## WHY IT MATTERS

At PSU's School of Art + Design, more than 1,200 students with diverse lived experiences exchange ideas and challenge conventional aesthetic boundaries. This multiplicity of perspectives reflects the makeup of a school where more than 40% of students identify as people of color. The School of Art + Design vision is to enable imaginative thinking unbound by traditional structures—ultimately, we hope to export a creativity ethos across campus so that PSU can become the nation's most invention-forward university. The project will also create opportunities to strengthen PSU's connections to Portland's Cultural District and Innovation Quadrant as well as to business and industry, forming new pathways to turn our region's most creative ideas into impact and action. We know that our city's transformation post-pandemic will be led by artists, makers, and creative thinkers. This is a golden opportunity to harness the moment and build a thriving center for creativity in the center of downtown Portland.

### CREATIVE SPACES FOR THE 21ST-CENTURY

In addition to foundational studios for the school's fine art programs—painting, sculpture, drawing, design, printmaking, and photography—the building will house a number of interdisciplinary spaces including computer labs, digital fabrication facilities, materials libraries, professional printing spaces, video/filmmaking studios, textiles laboratories, and more. Accompanying the studios, an envisioned Catalyst Lab aims to be a physical lab, designed to make access and collaboration natural by offering a layout that blurs the lines between one artistic discipline and the next. Within the lab, students will explore ideas from conceptual art to product design, side by side. An open access policy combined with an open floor plan with interspersed workspaces will encourage cross-pollination and experimentation for all.



*“I usually work small scale, so it's been a really good challenge to have work that is so visible. This can't be ignored.”*

**NIA MUSIBA**  
*PSU ART + DESIGN STUDENT*



*“Teaching and making go hand in hand. Without one, the other wouldn't exist.”*

**KATE BINGAMAN-BURT**  
*ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR &  
PROFESSOR OF GRAPHIC DESIGN*





- to each activity until they reach to begin on your project.
- Be very careful handling & working around other people's projects.
- It takes time & it is an investment to make 100% quality work.
- If anyone is disruptive they may be asked to leave the room.
- RESPECT all equipment, tools & each other.
- This studio is intended as a focused and concentrated working environment.

**SUMMER-FALL**

2022

Design Workshops with Art + Design Students, Alumni, Faculty, and Community Partners

**MAY**

2023

Construction Begins

**JUNE**

2025

Construction Completed

**SEPTEMBER**

2025

Grand Opening for Academic Year 2025-2026

**CONTACT US**

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**Portland State**  
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