

# NATIVE ARTS & CULTURES FOUNDATION

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May 3, 2023

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Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: CREF Slate 2023-25

**Raymond Foxworth**

(Navajo Nation)  
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Aloha Co-Chairs Girod, Holvey and Members of the Subcommittee:

**Nadia Sethi**

(Ninilchik Tribe-Alutiiq)  
BOARD SECRETARY

On behalf of Native Arts and Cultures Foundation (NACF), I am pleased to submit this statement of emphatic support for the slate of 16 capital projects endorsed by the Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon (CACO) for funding through the Cultural Resource Economic Fund (CREF) program this biennium.

**Kamani Kuala'au**

(Native Hawaiian)

**Elise Paschen**

(Osage Nation)

*Sumi'nangwa (Hopi):*

*To come together to do activities for the benefit of all.*

**Brenda Pipestem**

(Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians)

NACF is honored to be included among such a worthy and inspiring group of peer projects in the Oregon cultural nonprofit landscape. Our team found applying for CACO's endorsement to be comprehensive, reflecting a commitment to rigor and equity in their selection of capital projects that well represent the abundance of cultural diversity across our state. We deeply appreciated the time and care taken by the CACO's Board and advisors, and wholeheartedly commend their integrity and work in this process.

**Camilla Rockefeller**

**Rob Sassor**

**Charlene Teters**

(Spokane Nation)

**S.R. Tommie**

(Seminole Tribe of Florida)

**Brian D. Vallo**

(Pueblo of Acoma)

Our capital project received CACO's endorsement for \$3 million in CREF funding for retrofit and renovation of our new headquarters, the Yale Union building in SE Portland, re-opened as: **The Center for Native Arts and Cultures (The Center)**. We have received full and extensive backing, including a formal letter of support, from our District 42 Representative Rob Nosse, and we have additionally conducted multiple tours and outreach to other local elected officials and community leaders, including Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward and Rep. Tawna Sanchez, as well as offered presentations and tours with the Portland Indian Leaders

Roundtable and the Native American Youth and Family Center. The journey of The Center began with the transformative gift of the Yale Union building into NACF's care, with intent to be in relation with the Native tribes and peoples whose ancestors previously inhabited the land and waterway of this area. Its story has already helped build visibility and momentum for restorative social change, in our community and beyond.

The economic impact of this project within Portland's Enterprise Zone will be significant, starting with the creation of onsite construction-related jobs over a two-year period and have the further effect of some offsite construction-related jobs. NACF has relocated its headquarters and current work force to the building from our original headquarters in Vancouver, WA. Our estimated economic impacts pre-renovation and through construction include the following:

- 1) Within the budget for the renovation and retrofit of the building are 150-200 onsite construction-related jobs over a two-year period with a total payroll of \$5.5 million, and a further \$1 million in payroll from offsite work related to the construction.
- 2) The building will generate property tax based upon a formula agreed to following the February 9, 2017, Oregon Tax Court ruling *Yu Contemporary, Inc. v. Department of Revenue*, TC 5245
- 3) The building will generate Portland Fire Marshall permit revenue for its allowable 24 events with over 50+ people per event during the year. These events are currently a source of income for building maintenance and associated costs.

Post-construction, the facility will generate additional economic outcomes through the retail gallery, event space rentals, and social enterprise tenants:

- 4) Post-construction, the Center will generate additional economic outcomes through a planned retail gallery selling the art of local, regional, and national Native artists, ticket sales to black-box theatre productions, and through the social enterprise of tenants and their creative businesses, such as graphic design, and business & consulting services for artists and entrepreneurs. Event space rentals are anticipated to contribute to earnings for the Center.

Such a dedicated, independent, Native-led urban resource for the public, artists, and community is lacking in the arts and cultures field in Portland, and in Oregon. As former Oregon Poet Laureate Elizabeth Woody has pointed out, the Center is also consistent with the state's education mandate to curate truthful representations of Native peoples. And to quote former Oregon Arts Commission chair Julie Vigeland, *"This Center will provide for our northwest community a resource, a guide, an opportunity, and a vision for how we understand who we are and where we live."*

With gratitude for your advocacy,

  
T. Lulani Arquette  
President and CEO



Nurturing the passion and power of creative expression