

Clatsop County Historical Society

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Co-Chairs Senator Girod and Representative Holvey
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Salem, Oregon. 97301

RE: CREF Slate 2023-25

Dear Co-Chairs Girod, Holvey and Members of the Subcommittee:

On behalf of the Clatsop County Historical Society/Oregon Film Museum in Astoria, I respectfully urge you to support the Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon's (CACO) 2023 Cultural Resources Economic Fund (CREF) slate of capital construction projects. We can wholeheartedly support the entire slate of endorsed projects in large part because of the thoroughness of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition's process. Each project went through a series of reviews by a panel of professional peers with every aspect of the projects scrutinized and vetted.

The 16 endorsed projects on the slate include an allocation of \$1 million from the Cultural Resource Economic Fund towards the construction of a new 13,000 square foot facility for the Oregon Film Museum, replacing our current 800 square foot facility.

The museum celebrates the rich history of media-making in the state of Oregon. More than 500 major motion pictures, television shows, commercials, and other media have been created in the state and the industry continues to be a major economic engine statewide. Locally, the museum is already a major tourist draw welcoming more than 45,000 visitors last year. With visitors from all fifty states and more than forty nations, the OFM is a destination. The 30th Anniversary Celebration of *The Goonies* brought 15,000 visitors to a town of 10,000! They stayed in hotels, ate in our restaurants, and spent money locally. In 2018, experts estimated the average visitor to our region spends approximately \$209. By this measure, the Oregon Film Museum already has an annual economic impact of \$9.5 million in Astoria and Clatsop County. We fully expect our attendance to double with an expanded facility. When the OFM was created 13 years ago, the equivalent of 1.5 full-time jobs was created. An expansion will lead to adding the equivalent of 4 full-time jobs.

I ask the committee to fund the \$11.88M slate of CACO's endorsed projects and prioritize increased access and expansion of arts and culture in our communities.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,



McAndrew Burns
Executive Director