

O. Hm.

Oregon Humanities

February 5, 2024

Oregon Legislature
House Committee on Economic Development & Small Business Salem, Oregon

Dear Chair Bynum and Committee Members,

Thank you in advance for your leadership and for considering passage of **HB 4124**, which would provide funding for 14 critically needed capital projects for a diverse group of arts and culture organizations around the state. As the director of Oregon Humanities, I've had the good fortune to partner with dozens and dozens of cultural organizations who do essential work knitting their communities together – and this bill makes it possible for a key group of these organizations to do this work in a time when it is so needed.

The Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon has managed this CREF process since 2013. They extensively research and then recommend capital projects to the Legislature that have demonstrated local support, impact their communities and the cultural ecosystem of Oregon (including heritage, humanities, and arts). In the 2023 session, two Portland Metro projects in a single district were funded, and the remaining 14 projects, totaling \$7.8 million, were not. This was a departure from usual practice, and we believe that these remaining projects from all over the state truly merit your support.

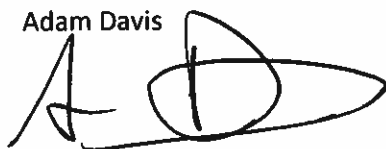
Additionally, **HB 4124** includes resiliency funding for the nonprofit arts and culture sector. Federal funding helped keep the cultural sector alive through the pandemic, but audiences have been slow to return. We understand that the Legislature faces many huge problems, but for a relatively small investment, you can actually solve a problem and help arts and culture organizations thrive across the state.

We deeply appreciate your understanding the unique complexities and challenges of our sector and the significant impact on our local and statewide economy. **We urge your support for HB 4124.**

Thank you for your consideration and thanks again for your work.

Sincerely,

Adam Davis

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a large, circular 'D' that loops back to the left.

Executive Director, Oregon Humanities