



the **reser**

PATRICIA RESER
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

February 7, 2024

Dear Chair Bynum and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development & Small Business,

As the Executive Director of the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts (“The Reser”) in Beaverton, Oregon, I respectfully ask for your vote to pass HB 4124. The Reser opened in 2022 after a successful public-private funding campaign, including funding appropriated by the Oregon Legislature in 2021. Since opening, The Reser has served over 85,000 visitors who have gathered for performances, cultural events, meetings, and classes. This would not have been possible without State funding to complete construction.

In 2023, the Oregon Legislature funded only two of 16 recommended Cultural Resources Economic Fund (CREF) projects which would have had similar impact to The Reser across the state. It was the first time in a decade the full slate of projects had not been funded. HB4124 would fund the other 14 CREF projects at arts and culture organizations across the state recommended by the Cultural Advocacy Coalition.

In addition, HB4124 provides resiliency funding, distributed through grants managed by Business Oregon. HB4124 will promote a healthy Oregon arts and culture sector to enhance livability, social cohesion, and generate economic development in the state. The arts and culture sector generated \$9.3 billion in state economic activity and employed 62,725 people in 2021.

I hope you will agree that the arts and culture sector is key to a healthy and vibrant Oregon. We urge your support for HB 4124.

Thank you,

Chris Ayzoukian
Executive Director