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Oregon Humanities

Oregon Legislature
Senate Committee on Labor and Business
Salem, Oregon

February 9, 2024

Re: SB 1582

Dear Chair Taylor and Committee Members,

Thank you in advance for your leadership and for considering passage of **SB 1582**, 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 and greatly impact their communities and the cultural ecosystem of Oregon (including heritage, humanities, and the arts). In the 2023 session, two Portland Metro projects in a single district were funded, and the remaining 14 projects, totaling \$7.8m, 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, **SB 1582** includes resiliency funding for the nonprofit arts and culture sector. Federal funding helped keep the cultural sector alive during 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 take a big step toward helping arts and cultural organizations—and the communities where they're located—thrive across the state.

We deeply appreciate your understanding the unique complexities and challenges of our sector and the significant impact on the local and statewide economy. We urge your support for SB 1582. Thank you for your consideration and thank you again for your work.

Sincerely,



Adam Davis, Executive Director, Oregon Humanities