

PLEASE PASS HB4124/SB1582 and Make This Museum Possible!



February 12, 2024

Chair Taylor and members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Business

The Rainier Oregon Historical Museum is one of the CREF 14 capital slate of projects that were unfunded in 2023. I am urging you to support all 14 projects in the passage of SB1582.

The Rainier Oregon Historical Museum has already raised \$1,394,765 in building funds. Receiving the \$500,000 CREF grant will bring us within reach of fully funding our museum, which is currently housed in one room inside the 100-year-old Rainier City Hall. Our contractor is prepared to break ground this spring on the property our museum owns. Our museum closed the week before Christmas 2023 when the City Clerk's office had to move into our space while city crews repaired water damage to their office. We desperately need this new museum to be built.

Each of the 14 CREF projects is an important investment in returns for our state economy and tourism. Supporting Oregon's Arts and Culture projects will have a positive impact on local community livability, create a social connection to communities and help establish a personal sense of belonging. Arts drive tourism and revenue to local businesses in the form of meals, shopping, and lodging; a vital income for local businesses.

Investing in Oregon's Arts and Culture gives a high return on investment.

Oregon arts and culture is a \$9.3 billion industry—3.4% of the state economy—and supports 62,725 jobs (more than sectors such as transportation, utilities, and agriculture).

Oregon's *nonprofit* arts industry alone generates \$687 million in economic activity annually and generates \$53 million in local and state government revenue. [Ref. Americans for Arts, AEP6] By supporting passage of HB4124/SB1582 you will ensure our arts will survive and communities throughout the entire state of Oregon will benefit. You will expand access to the arts, which is crucial for our state's growth and community development.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the board of the Rainier Oregon Historical Museum,

Kay Heflin, President