



February 17, 2025

Dear Chair Nguyen, Vice Chairs Diehl and Isadore and members of the House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade:

I'm writing on behalf of the Portland Art Museum to ask that you support House Bill 3191, which designates \$9.325 million for 14 arts and culture projects endorsed by the Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon (CACO). These projects, funded through the Cultural Resources Economic Fund (CREF), range from \$150,000 to \$2 million and are located throughout the state. They include the restoration of the only art museum on Oregon's coast, the restoration of theaters and entertainment spaces, and many more projects that will culturally enrich our communities.

The CACO board of directors reviewed 24 applications for 2025-2027 funding. After consulting with the Oregon Arts Commission and the Oregon Cultural Trust, the CACO recommended the 14 shovel-ready projects as ready for state investment. This year's slate covers projects in Salem, Astoria, Coos Bay, Baker City, Bend, Jacksonville, Joseph, Government Camp, Warm Springs, Ashland, and Portland.

I believe your investment in these projects will truly be an investment in our future. As we've seen, arts and culture organizations help to connect diverse audiences and generate much-needed economic activity.

I know from experience the importance that state dollars bring both to fund-raising campaigns and, finally, in getting shovel-ready projects over the finish line.

In 2017, the Legislature designated \$1 million for the Museum's extensive renovation project. In 2021, the Museum received a second \$1 million. Those dollars came at a critical time and were instrumental in our success. To date, the Museum is 90% toward our fundraising goal and, by the end of this year, we will have completed our work to reimagine our Museum campus in such a way as to bring more works and more people into our galleries and community spaces.

Your support was not just an investment in the Museum, but in our community for generations to come. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brian Ferriso
Director and Chief Curator