

# Lawmakers OK \$50M for arts/culture organizations

PORTLAND (AP) — State lawmakers have voted to distribute \$50 million in federal relief funds to Oregon arts and culture organizations still struggling amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Legislators voted Tuesday to direct \$24 million to individual organizations including the Oregon Shakespeare Festival and Oregon Symphony, among others, and another \$26 million to county coalitions who can distribute funds to other local arts and culture organizations in need, *The Oregonian/OregonLive* reported.

“This is a really welcome gift,” said Dana Whitelaw, executive director of the High Desert Museum in Bend, which received \$700,000 from the bill. The museum is projecting a revenue loss of close to \$1.5 million through the end of the year, she said.

“This starts to cover a significant portion of that.”

The largest amounts went to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, which received \$4.7 million, and Metro, which got \$4.1 million. Funds also went to the Oregon Symphony, Portland Opera, Portland Center Stage, Oregon Ballet Theater, Pendleton Round-Up and the Oregon Coast Community College.

More than \$9.6 million will also be split up among 78 arts venues around the state, from Revolution Hall in Portland to the Elgin Opera House in northeast Oregon.

The \$50 million comes from the CARES Act, a federal coronavirus relief fund that distributed an estimated \$2.45 billion to Oregon. The Joint Emergency Board of the Oregon State Legislature approved the bill Tuesday on a 19-1 vote.

## LETTERS

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vets called their wives in the Midwest and said, “Put the kids in the car and drive out to California; we are not going to have to live through any more snowy winters!”

So, I’m in the second or third grade and because of the influx of kids, the school went to double sessions. We had too many kids and not enough chairs. So, I went three hours in the morning and another group of kids went for three hours in the afternoon. I loved it: more time to play baseball in the street with my pals.

The message is — we have been here before; what’s the big deal.

If we want our kids to attend school, lets figure out a way to do it. We did so in 1946!

Bruce Rognlien

To the Editor:

Our lives have changed. Our freedom to do what we want and when we want is more restricted for now. This freedom that we have taken for granted in our culture is contributing to death and destruction of our friends, family, health, wealth, economy, businesses, fun, love and happiness.

Self-centeredness has taken the lead. That has to go away if you want to live and you don’t want to take the life of others. That party or get-together can wait. Be proud of yourself for not causing the death of your relative or friend.

American tears are falling, this virus spreading is our own fault. We can fix it only if we choose to. In many cases leadership is missing or marginal when we need it the most. It is way past time for our leaders to lead and tell the truth. The facts and science are real, read them.

The sky is not falling, Chicken Little; just be smart. You are not losing your freedom forever you are free to do the right thing. Be the solution not the problem.

Wear a mask, social distance, wash your hands, hold off on that gathering. The sooner we work together the earlier we

can be together.  
Sherry Steele



To the Editor:

I do not believe that two letters blaming inequities on “those who have chosen not to carry their own weight” (John Baldwin) and claiming that “EVERY other American (has) the greatest freedom and opportunity of any place on earth” (Larry Benson) accurately reflect our community as a whole.

I invite you to include the voices of those who, like me, are NOT “self hating” but who believe that principles on which our nation was founded REQUIRE us to think critically about where our nation is headed, and what we, individually, can do to insure that it is on the right path. We are not on the streets, not even certain of the right path. We do not hate law enforcement, but we have listened to recordings of the last words of people of color killed in interactions with police, and we have recognized that something is very, very wrong when a terrified person, who has done nothing wrong, ends up dead.

Personally, at age 70, and with a life experience of living in Asia, Africa and South America, not to mention both sides of the U.S., I am disappointed in myself that I’ve only recently begun to understand the comprehensive economic disadvantage that followed from slavery. I had friends in boarding school from very successful black families with a longer family history of professional status than my own, I was sworn in as a diplomat by Secretary of State Colin Powell (whose parents were immigrants) and served in a very diverse State Department. Integration of elites is very seductive distraction, but does not reflect economic, political or social realities in our communities.

Any initiative to address inequality will also address the challenges faced by immigrants and whites whose low incomes do not necessarily reflect a choice to “not carry their own weight,” but rather the disproportionate benefits that some of us enjoy.

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# Over 20 test positive for COVID-19 at Bend facility

BEND (AP) — More than 20 people have tested positive for COVID-19 at the Mt. Bachelor Memory Care center in Bend, health officials said.

After four days of testing staff and residents, contact tracers are working to determine the origin of the infection, according to Deschutes County Health Services director Dr. George Conway. One person tested positive on Saturday, *The Bulletin* reported.

Over the weekend of July 11-12, county health officials started testing residents and staff as they came to work. Conway says not all the test results are in. He says most who have tested positive are residents, along with some workers.

None of the people who have tested positive are clinically ill or needing hospitalization, Conway said.

Now that a positive case has been identified there, new residents will not be accepted and additional limits will be placed on visitors, according to the human services website.

“The residents are struggling,” Facility Executive Director Mallory DaCosta said. “They don’t always want to wear masks. The staff is devastated.”

As of Wednesday, there have been nearly 13,100 COVID-19 cases in Oregon, and at least 247 Oregonians have died from the virus, health officials said.

The virus causes mild to moderate symptoms in most patients, and the vast majority recover. But it is highly contagious and can cause severe illness and death in some patients, particularly the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.

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