



culturaladvocacycoalition

Capital Construction Funding Frequently Asked Questions

What types of projects can be funded with capital construction funds?

New construction, building acquisition, historic preservation, reconstruction which may include ADA compliance, seismic upgrades, sustainability, remodeling and emergency repairs.

How much funding is available for individual projects?

Historically, individual cultural-sector projects have received appropriations ranging from \$200,000-\$2,000,000.

Who decides which projects receive capital construction funds?

Capital construction funds are not distributed through a grant process, but instead are appropriated directly by the Oregon Legislature through the Ways and Means Committee. The Ways and Means Committee receives hundreds of requests for a limited amount of bond funding and determines whether to appropriate funds and at what level.

Are capital construction funds distributed based on geographic region?

No. The Cultural Advocacy Coalition encourages project participation from all regions of the state; however, capital construction funds are distributed at the discretion of the Oregon Legislature through the Ways and Means Committee, following consideration of the request, based on the merits of the project and availability of funds.

How do I apply for capital construction funding?

The Cultural Advocacy Coalition represents the cultural sector before the Ways and Means Committee and lobbies for capital construction projects that have received the Coalition's endorsement. By engaging in the process outlined below, cultural organizations may seek capital construction funding of their projects through the Coalition as a part of a larger package of multiple projects. Alternatively, cultural organizations not seeking the Coalition's endorsement may choose to request project funding through the legislative process independently through their local legislators.

To request the Coalition's endorsement of an eligible capital construction project, a Letter of Interest must be received by the Coalition by October 1, 2016.

Please email letter to info@oregonculture.org Re: Capital Construction Letter of Interest. Or mail to Cultural Advocacy Coalition PO Box 9160, Portland, OR 97207

Letter of interest, must include:

- overview of proposed project, estimated construction budget and timeline
- mission nexus – how the project relates to and furthers the organization's mission
- brief information on the history, community context and budget of the organization
- contact information

What is the timeline and process for the Coalition to make its endorsement decision?

The Coalition will use a committee process to review all letters of interest and will select a statewide complement of organizations for panel review. Selected organizations will be notified as to additional information needed prior to panel review. The panel will rank projects based on core criteria and other considerations distributed in advance to selected organizations. The panel's ranking will be used to select projects eligible for Coalition endorsement in the 2017 Session.

- Letters of Interest due by October 1, 2016
- Projects selected for review by Endorsement Panel by October 15, 2016
- Endorsed projects announced November 1, 2016

What happens after my project is endorsed?

The Coalition will work with endorsed organizations to help them prepare necessary information for legislative review. The Coalition will formally request funding on behalf of the package of endorsed projects, coordinate lobbying efforts among organizations and manage the sector's request throughout the Ways and Means process.

An endorsement by the Coalition does not guarantee approval of legislative funding.

How much time will I have to spend in Salem lobbying for funding?

Lobbying requirements vary with each session, but please expect for your point of contact to be available for at least two in person group meetings, with follow-up calls/emails as necessary. Committee testimony by the organization's leadership will be necessary on at least one, possibly two days, and legislative contact, as assigned, prior to committee testimony will also be expected. Legislative committee meetings are imprecise and scheduling must allow for either the full afternoon or morning for committee testimony. Committee meetings, which require stakeholder testimony, may be scheduled with as much as one week, to as little as one-hour of notice.

When could I expect funding to be available?

Capital construction funds have historically been funded through lottery backed bonds, which are often sold late in the state's two-year budget cycle. This means the legislature may approve the project list in June or July 2017, but the funds may not be available until June 2019.

If my project is funded, how are the funds disbursed?

Capital construction funds are disbursed via expense reimbursement to projects approved by the legislature. Following notification that state funds have been made available through the sale of lottery bonds; approved organizations receive reimbursement of expenses, up to appropriated amounts, through the Oregon Arts Commission, by producing paid invoices or receipts for eligible construction expenses.

What other requirements should be considered before making the decision to seek the Coalition's endorsement and request lottery bond funding at this time?

- Requests must support the advancement of arts, heritage or the humanities.
- Requests must be made by the organization with legal authority to improve the subject property.
- Projects are required to match state funds at least 1:1.
- Projects are expected to have measurable economic impact.
- Funding is disbursed as reimbursement for expenses, following bond sale, as late as June 2019.
- Funding may not be used for fundraising or program costs.
- Funds must be disbursed within two years of the bond sale.
- State funding that exceeds \$750,000 triggers prevailing wage requirements for the full project.

For specific process & application questions not addressed in this document, please contact christine@oregonculture.org