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The Harriet Beal Cormack Estate Donates a Combined \$2 Million to Five Portland-Based Nonprofits

\$400K gifts further Cormack’s dedication to civic engagement

Portland, Oregon – (November 17, 2022) — The estate of developer, arts-patron and public-private partnership champion Harriet Beal Cormack announced a combined gift of \$2 million to five Portland-based nonprofit organizations: [All Hands Raised](#), [Home Forward Community Partnerships](#), [Oregon Public Broadcasting \(OPB\)](#), [Pioneer Courthouse Square](#), and the [Regional Arts & Culture Council \(RACC\)](#). Cormack passed away on June 9, 2022, but her generosity will continue to support the wider community that Cormack was long committed to serving.



Cormack led a distinguished career in the private and public sectors of Seattle, then Portland. She was a philanthropic leader with an unflinching “can-do” approach, big ideas for a Portland in need of them, and commitment to the fine print needed to see them through.

She came to Portland in 1986 as vice president for development for Cornerstone Columbia Development Company, overseeing the 10-acre South Waterfront Urban Renewal area along the Willamette River. The result was RiverPlace, a new neighborhood for the city.

She was a strong advocate of public-private partnerships with an interest in making Portland a better place for everyone. Cormack understood the power of private philanthropists working *with* city officials to affect real change. She was involved in civic projects and arts organizations throughout her lifetime, and devoted her time and resources to Pioneer Courthouse Square, the

Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC), TriMet, the SAIF Corporation, and the City of Portland Design Commission, among others.

Cormack served as the Director of the Portland Center for the Performing Arts and the Vice President for Development for Olympia & York's Portland properties. Her deep commitment to providing housing for those less fortunate led her to positions on the boards of Home Forward and the Oregon Corporation for Affordable Housing. Leading the Square's Facilities Committee, Cormack developed the statement of need for Portland Parks' 2014 Replacement Bond that funded major maintenance and repairs in 39 Portland Parks including Pioneer Courthouse Square, where Portland comes together and is famously referred to as *Portland's Living Room*.

Cormack's sizable donation carries on her legacy as a remarkable philanthropist, and the following Portland nonprofits are grateful for her generous support.

About the beneficiaries



All Hands Raised's mission is to relentlessly improve and systematically connect our community's diverse assets with the explicit goal of working in new ways together to improve students' success inside and outside of schools. Cormack's gift will help All Hands Raised provide education, equity, and excellence to Multnomah County's students from cradle to career. **Media Contact:** Lisa Dungan Roth, Vice President, Strategic Engagement & Communication, lisa@allhandsraised.org



Home Forward Community Partnerships is committed to creating public policy and funding to preserve and develop affordable housing. Cormack's support will help the organization in its mission to assure that the people of the community are sheltered despite barriers such as income, special needs, or disability. **Media Contact:** Monica Foucher, Public Relations Associate Director, 503-313-2657, monica.foucher@homeforward.org



Oregon Public Broadcasting (OPB) is a leader in public media, serving diverse communities of the Northwest with fact-based, in-depth news and information about politics, the environment, science, arts, history, and cultures; business, education and more. Powered by the generous support of members, OPB seeks out a variety of voices in all communities and lifts up authentic stories of the people, places, events and issues of the region, providing context and a deeper understanding.

Media Contact: Lauren Elkanich, Communications Manager, 503-314-7112, lelkanich@opb.org.



Pioneer Courthouse Square is a 40,000-square-foot public space in the center of downtown Portland. It hosts hundreds of community events throughout the year, bringing Portland natives and visitors together. Cormack's endowment will help The Square ensure that it remains the foundation of a diverse and thriving downtown, and in turn a better Portland. **Media Contact:** Ryan Leverenz, 503-480-5096, ryan@leverenz.com



Regional Arts &
Culture Council

The Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC), for nearly 50 years, has led the Portland region in supporting its artists, creatives, and overall creative culture. Cormack's contribution will help further RACC's efforts to ensure there is art and culture in every community. **Media Contact:** Carol Tatch, Chief of External Operations, 503.823.5111, ctatch@racc.org

All Hands Raised, Home Forward, OPB, Pioneer Courthouse Square, and RACC are all excited by the opportunity to carry on Cormack's legacy.

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