

Support the Leroy Vinnegar Jazz Institute

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ABOUT THE LEROY VINNEGAR JAZZ INSTITUTE

The Leroy Vinnegar Jazz Institute (LVJI) is an independent, self-supporting institute housed within the Department of Music in PSU's School of Fine and Performing Arts. LVJI celebrates jazz' origins as an American artform that embodies the most noble aspirations of our national character. An art form that embraces individuality, honors diversity, and celebrates community, jazz has consistently demonstrated its power to bridge cultures and reach across barriers to inspire and change lives.

Named for Leroy Vinnegar, the "Master of the Walking Bass," who after a legendary career called Portland, Oregon home for the several years, LVJI will carry on the legacy of this seminal figure in the history of jazz, who was also a mentor, educator, and unflagging contributor to the musical life of his adopted community.

Located in the center of one of the Northwest's most vibrant jazz scenes, the Leroy Vinnegar Jazz Institute will serve as a catalyst bringing together the ideas, resources, and needs of a large community of students, scholars, educators, artists, and music professionals. By carrying out its programs in collaboration with other institutions and individuals that share its mission, including the non-profit arts community, schools and educational institutions, and the professional music community, LVJI will seek to impact communities throughout the state and the greater Northwest region.

MISSION

The mission of LVJI is to preserve and promote the art form, cultural heritage, and social history of jazz music in the Northwest through education, outreach, and historical documentation. LVJI's programs and partnerships will help to fill the void in arts education left by budget cuts in public school funding; provide opportunities for gifted young people to interact with world-class artists; encourage participation in the music making process at the community and individual levels, and increase the understanding and appreciation of our shared cultural heritage.

The Institute is fiscally sponsored by The PSU Foundation, and is funded through contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations and charitable organizations, as well as through income from its programs and events.