

REVENUE: Revenue statement issued
FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Tax Credits by Prior Reference
Vote: 6 - 0 - 0
Yeas: Edwards, Girod, Monroe, Starr, Thomsen, Beyer
Nays: 0
Exc.: 0
Prepared By: Patrick Brennan, Administrator
Meeting Dates: 3/12, 4/1

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Extends sunset for tax credit on contributions to Trust for Cultural Development from January 1, 2014 to January 1, 2020.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Two donations required to receive tax credit
- Estimated economic and employment benefit of tax credit
- Educational value of cultural institutions
- Examples of organizations that have benefited from the tax credit
- National model for cultural investment
- Trust endowment has not yet become self-sustaining
- Diversion of moneys that could be used for other purposes

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Oregon Cultural Trust provides funding for Oregon's cultural community. In its first 10 years, the Trust has received contributions from more than 21,000 Oregonians, for a total of more than \$25 million. The money has been utilized to provide more than \$9 million in grants and to build an endowment of nearly \$15.5 million. Grants have been used to support programs such as local museums, historic cemeteries, and archaeological sites. The Oregon Cultural Trust partners with the Oregon Arts Commission, the Oregon Historical Society, the State Historic Preservation Office, the Oregon Heritage Commission, and the Oregon Council for the Humanities, as well as Oregon's 45 county and tribal cultural coalitions.

Individuals who donate to the Oregon Cultural Trust may receive a tax credit of up to \$500 for individuals, \$1,000 for couples, or \$2,500 for corporations. To qualify, a matching donation can be made to any combination of cultural nonprofit entities in Oregon, including public broadcasting services, historical societies, museums, school or library foundations, art centers, nonprofit galleries, heritage organizations or performing arts groups. Such donations are eligible for a 100 percent Oregon tax credit.