

Analysis

Item 20: Oregon Business Development Department

Artist Relief Program

Analyst: Steven Bender

Request: Increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation for Arts and Cultural Trust by \$1,250,000, to allow expenditure of unanticipated grant funds received for an Artist Relief Program.

Analysis: The Arts Commission within the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) was awarded \$1,250,000 from the Oregon Community Foundation in partnership with the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation. The funds were awarded to establish an Artist Relief Program to provide relief funding to Oregon artists who have experienced financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Professional artists who have had or anticipate experiencing a revenue loss of \$1,000 or more due to event cancellations occurring between March 1 and December 31, 2020 are eligible for relief grants under this program. Eligible artistic disciplines include Literature, Dance, Music, Theatre & Performance Art, Folk & Traditional Arts, Visual Arts, Design Arts, and Media Arts.

The maximum award amount to an artist will be \$5,000. The Arts Commission received 1,233 applications for funds and will utilize five peer review panels to review these applications during the week of December 7th. The applicants combined identified a total of \$29 million of revenue losses as a result of the pandemic.

Although the Arts Commission has other ongoing programs that directly support individual artists, these programs typically fund less than 70 artists per year; the Commission's grant funds overwhelmingly support arts institutions and entities that support institutions. The donors have provided these funds without a state match or maintenance-of-effort requirement. The expenditure limitation increase is required to permit OBDD to distribute the funds to grant recipients.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Emergency Board increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation for Arts and Cultural Trust by \$1,250,000, to allow expenditure of grant funds received for an Artist Relief Program.

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Request: Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$1,250,000 for grant funds received from the Oregon Community Foundation for the Artist Relief Program.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: Funds have been awarded to the Department from the Oregon Community Foundation, in partnership with the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, for the Artist Relief Program.

The Artist Relief Program provides relief funding to Oregon artists who have experienced financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic, due to cancellations of exhibitions, performances, rehearsals or other activities with a stipend, events, teaching opportunities, book signings, or other professional presentation opportunities.

Grant funds are available to artists from the following disciplines; Literature, Dance, Music, Theatre & Performance Art, Folk & Traditional Arts, Visual Arts, Design Arts, and Media Arts. Artists of these disciplines who have experienced, or anticipate experiencing, a loss of revenue of \$1,000 or more between March 1 and December 31, 2020 may apply.

Arts Commission staff will review submitted applications for eligibility, completeness and accuracy. Applications that meet program requirements will be reviewed by a diverse panel of arts professionals. The Arts Commission will consider panel recommendations for funding and determine final award amounts. A geographic distribution model will ensure that applicants from across Oregon are supported.

Applications are due by November 10, 2020. Recipients will be notified mid to late December. Awards will range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and funds will be disbursed to artists in January 2021.

Legal Reference: Increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 522, Section 2(4), Oregon Laws 2019 for the Oregon Business Development Department for Arts Commission and Cultural Trust by \$1,250,000 for the 2019-21 biennium.



October 29, 2020

**The Honorable Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Tina Kotek, Co-Chair
State Emergency Board
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048**

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon Business Development Department (Department) respectfully requests an increase in Other Fund limitation in the amount of \$1,250,000 to allow the Department to expend unanticipated grant funds.

Agency Action

Background

Funds have been awarded to the Department from the Oregon Community Foundation, in partnership with the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, for an Artist Relief Program (Program). The purpose of the Program is to provide relief funding to Oregon artists who have experienced financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic due to cancellations of exhibitions, performances, rehearsals or other activities. The program supports professional artists who have experienced, or anticipate experiencing, a loss of revenue of \$1,000 or more between March 1 and December 31, 2020

The Program supports artists from the following artistic disciplines: Literature, Dance, Music, Theatre & Performance Art, Folk & Traditional Arts, Visual Arts, Design Arts, and Media Arts.

Arts Commission staff will review submitted applications for eligibility, completeness and accuracy. Applications that meet program requirements will be reviewed by a diverse panel of arts professionals. The Arts Commission will consider panel recommendations for funding and determine final award amounts. A geographic distribution model will ensure that applicants from across Oregon are supported.

Awards will range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and funds will be disbursed to artists in January 2021.

Action Requested

The Department respectfully requests the Emergency Board approve the request to add \$1,250,000 of Other Fund limitation to the Department's budget.

Legislation Affected

Increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 522, Section 2(4), Oregon Laws 2019 for the Oregon Business Development Department for Arts Commission and Cultural Trust by \$1,250,000.

Sincerely,

Chris
Cummings

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Chris Cummings
Date: 2020.10.29
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Chris Cummings
Interim Director