

February 6, 2019

The House Committee on Economic Development  
RE: SB 2052, Oregon Cultural Trust  
Extending sunset for tax credit (for contributions to the) Trust for Cultural Development Account  
hecd.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Committee Members,

I am a stakeholder in your legislation. As your arts partner in Washington County, I have served two terms on the Boards of the [Cultural Coalition of Washington County](#) (CCWC) and [Tualatin Valley Creates](#) (TVC). CCWC is the disbursement vehicle of [Oregon Cultural Trust](#) (OCT) grants in our County. TVC has directly and indirectly benefitted from OCT Grants, and is an active voice in partnership with both OCT and CCWC.

From 1997 to 2000, I enjoyed one of the higher paying music jobs in Portland, working as a professional audio salesperson. Recording studios, music venues, broadcast clients (like radio and TV stations) relied on our shop to deliver solutions. Vibrancy in arts may be expressed in diversity and stability of the tax base. Arts spending acts as an economic equalizer, filtering spending through businesses in the beverage, hospitality, restaurant and hotel industries. My 'arts' job provided a living wage, and was dependent on economic activity of artists, and especially on the technical talent supporting artists.

The efficacy of the OCT funds in the community is amazing, and CCWC volunteers have personal narratives in addition to the "Grant Buddy" reports we collect from donees. The CCWC volunteer model for disbursement keeps costs low and justifies that excellent use of taxpayer resources. Themes that grant review panels typically support align with other requests for funding you receive. Schools and libraries rank very high in funding. The magic is in the trust concept that minimizes asking you for more funding and keeps this program on a trajectory of (largely) self-support. The excellent supervision and returns on investments delivered by trust management make this work. The justification for the tax credit extension is factual: **The arts contribute to economic development and more than offset any cost with economic development. Please continue the tax credit (extend the sunset for 10 years to Trust for Cultural Development Account please), this makes Oregon a better place!**

Respectfully,

Eric Squires, Board Member of CCWC and TVC

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