



JAMES F. AND MARION L.
MILLER
FOUNDATION

February 12, 2019

House Committee on Economic Development

Re: HB 2052, Oregon Cultural Trust

Extends sunset for tax credit for contributions to the Trust

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing as the Executive Director of the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, an institutional arts funding partner of the Cultural Trust, and as a personal contributor to the Cultural Trust. In both roles, I encourage the House Committee to support HB 2052, and extend the sunset for tax credits for contributions to the Trust for Cultural Development Account for ten years.

Oregon Cultural Trust is one of very few sources of consistent financial support to artists, community-based organizations and cultural coalitions in an ever-changing landscape of arts funders in Oregon. In the Miller Foundation's fifteen-year history, we have seen other regional foundation and major corporate contributions to the arts shrink increasing dependence upon small business and individual donors, a source which the Trust leverages effectively annually and which has the potential to grow.

The Cultural Trust provides support for cultural activities and organizations in every county in the state with higher per capita funding, up to \$15 per capita, in rural counties where funding can be quite scarce, by harnessing contributions from urban areas. Cultural trust funds are leveraged by in-kind goods and services, generating an additional 70% of the grant amounts in economic value and leveraging new funding sources for required matching grants. (EcoNorthwest Study Nov. 2018)

The Miller Foundation often provides matching financial support to Oregon Cultural Trust projects because we understand the review and care with which they make their funding decisions. We see the Oregon Cultural Trust and its affiliated agencies as critical partners for maintaining, growing, and valuing our cultural voices, a role for which there is high demand but limited investment.

We hope you will extend the sunset for tax credits for contributions to the Trust for Cultural Development for another ten years.

Most sincerely,

Martha S. Richards
Executive Director