

March 30, 2019

The House Committee on Economic Development
Support Letter for HB 2132 Oregon Cultural Trust
Extending sunset for tax credit (for contributions to the) Trust for Cultural Development Account
lro.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 through many other 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 to add to the "Grant Buddy" reports we collect from donees. The volunteer model for disbursement keeps costs low and justifies that this is an 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 priorities. The real art is in the trust concept that minimizes the burden of asking you for more funds and keeps this program on a trajectory of 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 6 years to Trust for Cultural Development Account please), this makes Oregon a better place!

Respectfully,

Eric Squires

17172 SW Rider Lane

Aloha Oregon 97007-8581

Eric@EricSquires.com

503.807.3899