



# culturaladvocacycoalition

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March 31, 2019

Representative Nancy Nathanson, Chair  
Representatives Lynn Findley, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Revenue  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chair Findley, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the members of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition, we write to urge your strong support to extend the sunset for the tax credit which is helping to build the Oregon Cultural Trust. You will soon consider HB 2132 which will extend this tax credit for six years and during that time will provide critical support to the work of the cultural community across Oregon, impacting both the health and wellness of our residents and the economic vitality of our communities. Our goal is that every corner of Oregon has access to the cultural sector and that every resident understands the importance of creative expression in their lives. We are making slow but steady progress towards that goal and the tax credit provides an important form of engagement for Oregonians.

**Renewal of the tax credit is our top priority is the 2019 session.** We support the original vision of the 2001 Legislature for a \$200 m.+ fund to support the arts, heritage and the humanities for generations in this state. The Cultural Tax Credit now generates close to \$5 million per year for the Cultural Trust. Up to 60 percent of that amount is distributed to nonprofit organizations working on cultural activities in Oregon and the remainder is invested in a permanent fund for Oregon culture. All told, since the Cultural Trust was founded, \$23 million has been distributed in grant funds across the state to county coalitions, tribes and statewide partners. A newly released impact study conducted by ECO Northwest concludes that the Cultural Trust has remarkable geographic reach, supporting cultural activities and organizations in every county with higher per capita spending, up to \$15 per capita, in rural counties where grant funding can be scarce.

We appreciate your consideration and support for HB 2132.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nancy Golden, President of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition