

April 1, 2019

House Committee on Revenue

RE: SB 2132 Oregon Cultural Trust

Extends sunset for tax credit for contributions to Trust for Cultural Development Account

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Cultural Coalition of Washington County (CCWC), one of the County coalitions supported by the Oregon Cultural Trust. Since 2005 the CCWC has distributed funds to Washington County based not-for-profit arts, heritage and humanities organizations to support projects and events in their communities. The CCWC uses a competitive grant process to select grant recipients and distributes funds in small amounts, up to \$1000 or up to \$2000. In the 15 years of grants, CCWC has awarded over \$622,000 to small and large organizations ranging from Garden Home to Forest Grove, from North Plains to Sherwood. Here is just a sample of the things these Tax Credit dollars have supported:

- Instruments for middle school bands so all students can participate
- Costumes for dance troupes
- Indian, Hawaiian, Mexican and Native American dance performances
- Heritage signage, translation of materials to Spanish to increase inclusion
- Theatre productions for all ages, both community and professional theater
- Choir performances
- Artist-in-residence experiences for school kids
- Music performances at public libraries and farmers' markets, in music halls and more
- Discussion groups for film, literature, current events and more
- Summer camp scholarships for Latino and low-income children to attend art camps
- Afterschool art and literature programs at schools and libraries
- Marketing materials to promote theater, music and historical organizations
- Outdoor theatre performances in parks
- Storytelling performances

I am attaching a full list of the grant awards from 2005 through 2019. The CCWC is a volunteer board. The majority of funds received from the Oregon Cultural Trust are distributed in grants; only a small amount is used for administrative and grant support. Staff support comes from Washington County at this time. Our website is: www.culturalcoalitionofwashingtoncounty.org

In a county such as Washington County, this funding has made a huge difference in supporting the growing and evolving cultural life of our residents. We've seen organizations mature and use our small grants as stepping stones to larger grants and sponsorships. Arts organizations make a little bit go a long way! Even in our large county, a small amount of seed money makes a big impact; we know that the effect is the same in small communities across the state.

Thank you for investing in the cultural heart of Oregon. I hope you will renew the Oregon Cultural Tax Credit program for another six years.

Sincerely,

Eva Calcagno

Program Coordinator, Cultural Coalition of Washington County

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