

## ANALYSIS

### Item 46: Business Development Department Artist Resilience Grants

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**Analyst:** Matt Stayner

**Request:** Increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Business Development Department by \$180,000 for the expenditure of grant funds from the Oregon Community Foundation for the provision of artist resilience grants.

**Analysis:** The Oregon Community Foundation (OCF), in partnership with the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, provided \$1.5 million to the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) to fund grants to Oregon artists who experienced financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic due to cancellations of exhibitions, performances, rehearsals or other activities with a stipend, events, teaching opportunities, book signing, or other professional presentation opportunities. Expenditure limitation for this funding was authorized by the Legislature in section 123, chapter 110, Oregon Laws 2022 (HB 5202).

The requested increase in expenditure limitation is for additional funding provided to OBDD by the OCF for the same purpose. The additional funds will be used to provide supplemental awards to approximately 120 high-scoring applicants.

**Recommendation:** The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Emergency Board increase Other Funds limitation by \$180,000 for the Business Development Department to expend additional funds available for artist resilience grants.

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Oregon Business Development Department  
Brickman

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**Request:** Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$180,000 received in a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation to provide relief to Oregon artists who experienced financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Discussion:** As a result of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF), in partnership with the James F. and Maron L. Miller Foundation (foundation), created the Oregon Arts and Culture Recovery Program Commission. As part of this program the Oregon Arts Commission (OAC), located within the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD), received grant funds for the Artist Resilience Program (ARP). The foundation was founded to enhance the quality of life of Oregonians through the support of classroom education and the performing, visual, and literary arts. ARP provides relief funding to Oregon artists who have experienced financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic due to the loss of income, loss of opportunity, or other unanticipated impacts to their artistic practice. The intent of the funding is to help sustain the artistic practice of professional artists. Most of the award amounts per artist were between \$1,000 to \$5,000. In consultation with OCF and the foundation, OAC managed the administration of the Program, including finalizing program eligibility and application questions, soliciting applicants, responding to applicant inquiries, checking submitted applications for eligibility, overseeing the review panel process, determining final awards, and developing grant award agreements.

OBDD was recently made aware of an additional \$180,000 in grants from OCF for the ARP. The OAC and OBDD will consult with OCF for the allocation of these additional funds. OBDD anticipates an additional 120 artists will receive some amount of additional funding.

**Legal Reference:** Increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 560, section 2(4), Oregon Laws 2021, for the Oregon Business Development Department, Arts and Cultural Trust, by \$180,000 for the 2021-23 biennium.



August 17, 2022

Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair  
Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair  
Joint Emergency Board  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

### **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Business Development Department, (Department) respectfully requests an increase in Other Fund limitation in the amount of \$180,000 to allow the Department to expend unanticipated grant funds.

### **Agency Action**

#### **Background**

Funds have been awarded to the Department from the Oregon Community Foundation, in partnership with the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, for an Artist Resilience Program (Program). The original award amount was \$1,500,000. The Department was recently awarded an additional \$180,000 from the Oregon Community Foundation.

The purpose of the Program is to provide relief funding to Oregon artists who have experienced financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic due to cancellations of exhibitions, performances, rehearsals or other activities with a stipend, events, teaching opportunities, book signings, or other professional presentation opportunities. Program awards were made from \$1,000 to the maximum of \$5,000 per individual artist.

The \$180,000 additional award will be used to increase funding to high scoring applicants. It is projected that over 120 artists will receive some amount of additional funding.

The Department will not assess an administrative fee for the additional funds. The administrative allocation from the original award will cover the additional funding allocations.

No additional FTE is being requested to administer this grant; these funds do not require a local match or cost sharing.

In consultation with the Oregon Community Foundation and the James F. and Marion L. Miller Foundation, the OAC managed the administration of the Program, including finalizing the Program eligibility and application questions, soliciting applicants, responding to applicant inquiries, checking submitted applications for eligibility, overseeing the review panel process, determining final awards, and developing grant award agreements. The Department will consult with Oregon Community Foundation for the allocation of additional funds.

**Action Requested**

The Department respectfully requests an increase in Other Fund limitation in the amount of \$180,000 to allow the Department to expend unanticipated grant funds.

**Legislation Affected**

Increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 560, Section 2(4), Oregon Laws 2021 for the Oregon Business Development Department for Arts Commission and Cultural Trust by \$180,000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris" followed by a stylized, cursive flourish.

Chris Cummings  
Deputy Director