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Oregon Arts & Culture Caucus



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HB 2459: This bill provides \$50 million in general funds to be distributed through direct allocations to larger arts/culture entities, plus a list of independent venues, with remaining funds (roughly half) distributed by the county and tribal coalitions through a grant program modeled on the CARES process that worked well previously. Some of our major venues are seeing ticket sales at 18% of what they were before the pandemic. The need is great.

HB2498: The original concept of the Oregon Cultural Trust was that in addition to a tax credit for Oregonians who give to it, the sale of public lands would fill its coffers. No public land has been sold yet.

HB2498 allocates \$200 million to be invested through lottery bonding with earnings spent for grants to the 1600 eligible arts and culture nonprofits in Oregon. This will provide a sustainable future for the sector and move Oregon into the top national rankings for state support to arts, culture, heritage and humanities offering for all Oregonians. We call it Oregon's Culture Promise.

HB2911: Much needed support to our county fair venues as they recover from the COVID-19 impacts. Seemingly overnight, Oregon's fairgrounds went from cultural gathering places and live music venues to makeshift hospitals, shelters, and refuge for thousands of Oregonians during some of the most difficult crises our great state has been confronted with. The \$10 million in grant monies made available through this legislation will provide the funds needed to our county fair venues for operations, maintenance, and repair as they build back from the deep challenges caused by the pandemic.

LC346: This is a priority of the Oregon Cultural Trust and was approved by the previous Governor. The cap on administrative costs has not grown with the needs to support grants distribution and management. Course correction is needed to match the realities of a growing and more complex arts and culture field. The current demands and needs of the cultural sector have far outpaced the Trust's ability to effectively serve the field and donors. Removing the spending cap would also increase the Trust's ability to address capacity issues facing many county and tribal coalitions.

