



To the House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business -

As the director of a small arts and music educational nonprofit organization that serves historically under-represented youth and communities, I urge you to continue the COVID and CARES relief funding for arts organizations so that we can continue the work that is so needed in our communities.

Our organization, Vibe of Portland, would not be here today if not for those investments in arts and educational organizations provided through ARPA and CARES funding. Because of this crucial investment, Vibe was able to provide arts educational access to over 1200 students in 2022 - providing 25 weeks of summer camps, countless classes, workshops and events to connect with the community through creativity. Our middle school students helped design and implement a public mural in SE Portland - a severely forgotten part of the city. The arts access provided by Vibe last year was vital for kids who had been lacking in social and creative outlets since the pandemic began. This funding helped our ability to provide scholarships and extra staffing to support the needs of the youth in our program.

Having support through HB 2459 for our arts organization and countless other organizations throughout the state will positively invest in communities that are still trying to recover from the pandemic and its effects. As the arts are an indicator of the health and vibrancy of our communities - continued investment by our state policy makers will keep our economies and communities resilient for rebuilding and moving forward.

Thank you for your investment in the creative economy - and for your continued support of the arts and culture sector.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Streib". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Laura Streib
Founder and Executive Director
Vibe of Portland