

The John G. Shedd Institute for the Arts

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February 14, 2023

The Honorable Dacia Grayber
Chair, House Committee on Emergency Management,
General Government and Veterans
Oregon State Legislature
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 2498, Creation of the Cultural Impact Program

Dear Chair Grayber and Committee Members:

I write today in support of HB 2498. I was an initial “Doubting Thomas” when the Cultural Trust was first proposed, but then was also part of the founding group to create Lane County’s Cultural Coalition and operating plans to distribute OCT grants across our complex county.

I was a founding member of the Eugene Opera, Eugene Ballet, and The Shedd Institute; helped bring the Hult to reality; and served as past President of the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art as we launched the major remodeling campaign. We were accustomed to doing it on our own and to watching while most major arts funding went either to Portland or Ashland.

The OCT has helped to level that funding discrepancy and to support and create organizations, capital initiatives and programming that might never have come to pass without this unique tax credit model. I ceased being a “Doubting Thomas” years ago.

The \$200M requested at this time makes good on the legislative promise when the Trust was initially created. It was a joint endeavor by taxpayers with the State for funds to be held in trust and in donors’ minds in perpetuity to support Oregon’s rich and burgeoning culture. In dire times the Legislature threatened those funds, but fortunately had the wisdom not to violate that trust relationship. Now is the opportunity to follow through on the State’s initial pledge and to create a funding source to steward Oregon’s heritage going forward – in perpetuity.

Please support this proposal. “Art Happens”, yes – but it happens better for all when financially stable!

Sincerely,



Ginevra Ralph, co-founder and Director Community and Cultural Relations

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The mission of The Shedd Institute is to be an education and performance center where people find and nurture community through discovery, creation and celebration.