

The Honorable Janelle Bynum  
Chair, House Committee on Economic Development  
and Small Business  
Oregon State Legislature  
Salem, Oregon. 97301

**RE: HB 3532, Trust for Cultural Development Administrative Cap Change**

Dear Chair Bynum and Committee Members:

Our names are Phoebe Daurio and Tim Hecox and we are volunteers and board co-chairs for the Multnomah County Cultural Coalition (MCCC). We are writing to you today in support of HB 3532, a revenue neutral bill to change the administrative spending cap of the Trust for Cultural Development (dba The Oregon Cultural Trust – OCT). Our County Cultural Coalition supports this bill which will enable the Trust to better serve grantees through deeper organizational capacity.

The Oregon Cultural Trust is a unique-to-the nation vehicle for supporting over 1500+ eligible nonprofits with grant funds to meet our shared mission of making sure every Oregonian has access to arts and culture in their community. Oregonians have built a corpus of over \$30 million dollars using the tax credit generously provided by the state. The original administrative cap of \$400,000 needs to be modernized to keep pace with the current demands and needs of Oregon's cultural organizations, the 45 county and tribal coalitions, and the five statewide agency partners currently supported. HB 3532 is a revenue neutral policy change that will exponentially increase our collective capacity to serve our cultural community.

The MCCC is a volunteer-led, re-granting board of the Oregon Cultural Trust in Multnomah County. Our mission is to foster a community that is opportunity-rich in cultural offerings and increase the likelihood of cultural participation among the broadest possible spectrum of county residents. Because of the lingering impacts of the pandemic, we are continuing to receive far more requests for funding than we have the capacity to fund. Due to an increase in applicants and the raising cost of inflation, we are also unable to fund an adequate level of administrative services. Receiving greater administrative and technical support through HB 3532 would enable us to better accomplish our goal of making culture accessible and affordable to Multnomah County residents as well as increase the amount of funding available to us for maintaining our fiscal sponsorship and grant administration support.

We in Multnomah County know the power of creativity to build communities and collective understanding. We know the economic impacts that arts and culture bring to our state through tourism, event attendance and scholarly study. This sector has been among the hardest hit from the pandemic and recovery continues. Not only do we need more public financial support, but we need to update our tools and support our dedicated volunteer networks to serve the sector at this critical time.

On behalf of Multnomah County Cultural Coalition, we strongly urge your support for HB 3532. Thank you for the opportunity to hear directly from the field about the important work of the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Sincerely,  
Timothy Hecox & Phoebe Daurio  
MCCC Board Co-Chair