

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:

My name is Susan Powers and I am a volunteer for the Marion Cultural Development Corporation. With this letter, I want to express my full 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. If the Trust is able to better serve grantees all cultural organizations throughout Oregon will benefit.

Did you know the Oregon Cultural Trust is unique-to-the nation in the way that it is able to provide financial support to over 1500+ eligible nonprofits through grant funds. This mission is to make it possible for every Oregonian to have 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.

With updating the revenue to reflect our current market and needs, MCDCC is not able to grant funding each year to all the non-profits that have applied and would be eligible for cultural grants if more funding each year was available. With more support from OCT, we would be able to broaden the opportunities for Marion County.

As a board member for over five years in Marion County I know firsthand how fantastic it is to see small non-profits make big differences in their communities - from dance, to poetry, lectures, singing, drama, historical preservation. These organizations run on a shoestring and were particularly hardhit during the pandemic. 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 Marion County's Cultural Coalition,, we strongly urge your support for HB 3532. Thank you for supporting the arts, heritage and cultural assets of Oregon!

With kind regards,
Susie Powers

