

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 Mark Greenhalgh-Johnson and I am a volunteer for the Polk County Cultural Coalition. I am writing to support HB 3532. This is 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 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 Polk County Cultural Coalition strives to support local Polk county cultural non-profits. We particularly support programs geared toward children and those strengthening Polk county's diverse cultural and historic heritage. The Cultural Trust of Oregon facilitates our efforts and has the expertise to guide our organization and the grants we supervise. Through Trust funding we support programs as varied as the Independence Fiesta, Polk County Museum's Family Days, to the Applebox Children's Theater.

We in Polk 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 their 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 this sector at this critical time.

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



Mark Greenhalgh-Johnson
Chair - Polk County Cultural Coalition