

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 Leah Murray and I am a volunteer for the Lane County Cultural Coalition. I am 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.

Since 2002, Lane County Cultural Coalition has given out an average of 18 grants (approx. \$30,000) a year. The Coalition members work hard to ensure that the funds we give are spread across our large county from Florence to Blue River and Junction City to Cottage Grove. Each year, these funds touch our entire community from young, budding artists after school to senior citizens learning to drum in their retirement homes. In 2015 alone, the Arts and Creative Sector created over \$62 million in economic activity in Lane County. We are proud of our work of encouraging and supporting arts, culture, and historic preservation in our communities.

We in Lane 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 Lane 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.

Leah Murray,  
Lane County Cultural Coalition Chair 21-23