



Deb Maher
WOW Hall
291 W. 8th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401

To the Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee:

I am writing in support of The Arts Recovery Bill (HB 2459 and SB 5506) which will bring \$50,150,000 of critical funding to support the performing arts statewide. For Lane County, The Arts Recovery Bill will allocate \$1,479,369.31 in funds to support eight community agencies fostering the arts.

The Cuthbert Amphitheater, Hult Center for the Performing Arts, Jazz Station, McDonald Theater, Oregon Contemporary Theater, Shedd Institute for the Arts, Wildish Community Theater, and WOW Hall play integral parts in the economic and civic vitality of Lane County. The Arts are one of Lane County's Economic Sector Strategies that in 2021 employed 4,027 residents and reported a total payroll of \$171 million dollars. The Arts employs community members representing professionals with a wide array of skills, and educational backgrounds drawing from those without a high school diploma through bachelor's degrees. The Creative Sector compliments the Food and Beverage Sector creating multiple intersections to foster a year-round and robust ecosystem for hospitality, tourism, and recreation.

Working in conjunction with the WOW Hall, and Oregon Humanities, Lane Community College is deeply invested in supporting spaces for people of color and historically marginalized groups to create foster communities in safety. Lane Community College supports the WOW Hall's future "Running the Show" program that will host 10-12 young adults from Lane County focusing on students of color and LGBTQIA students to engage in an immersive experiential learning experience fostering self-efficacy, and access to a high wage and high demand career pathways in Lane County and beyond. Students will develop a comprehensive plan including making an initial pitch to a booking agency, to marketing, to logistics, set-up, sales, and reconciling accounts. For students of color and students from historically marginalized groups, a program like this has a proven track-record of closing opportunity and access gaps.

One of the difficult lessons that Oregonians learned throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic was the need to be in community. Community allows us to connect, challenge, and celebrate; the Creative Sector allows Lane County residents to rebuild more just communities.

Best regards,


Justin Chin
Dean of Workforce Development - Lane Community College