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Submitter: Terry Scott, Executive Director  
On Behalf of: B-17 Alliance Foundation  
Committee: House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3191

Dear Chair Nguyen, Vice Chairs Diehl and Isadore, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the Arts and Culture community.

As the Executive Director of the B-17 Alliance Foundation and overseeing our Museum and Restoration Hangar in Salem, I know firsthand the importance of Arts and Culture in intergenerational community building and for providing a pathway for diverse individuals to connect and share experiences. Nearly every day, inside our Museum and Restoration Hangar, I see military veterans, older volunteers that are experts in aviation, and students come together to help restore our B-17G called Lacey Lady.

To watch these different generations come together in this way underscores how arts and culture can preserve and celebrate a community's history, traditions, and values while giving people of all walks of life a way to feel a sense of belonging and pride in their community. Supporting our state's cultural organizations is crucial to ensuring our vitality and quality of life.

A recent report from SMU DataArts reports that Oregon is one of the most arts-vibrant states in the country, however, Oregon is one of the lowest funded states for arts and culture. Therefore, it is critical for your increased investment in arts and culture programming and CREF projects in this legislative session. Your support will help safeguard our arts and culture institutions that are vital to our way of life in the state.

Thank you for prioritizing arts and culture funding in the upcoming legislative session.

Regards,

*Terry Scott*

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