

Submitter: Sarah Ferguson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3189

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in support of House Bill #3189 to increase funding for the Oregon Arts Commission. The arts are a valuable part of our state's economy, providing many jobs directly and through adjacent businesses. Supporting the arts begins with our youngest Oregonians. We need to provide them with a broad range of arts experiences throughout their education. I have been a teaching artist in the schools for over 24 years and have experienced the power of the arts to engage and empower young people in their learning. Children learn through many different modalities and a range of arts experiences allow children to learn about themselves, their community and the world. The arts enhance imagination, cooperation, innovation and problem solving; skills that are needed throughout our economy. We know the arts are important to our childrens' education and growth as young Oregonians, and to the cultural health of our entire state. We need to fund the arts as though it mattered, because it does! Oregon is currently 41st in spending on the Arts, please vote yes on HB3189 and increase funding for the Oregon Arts Commission and move Oregon forward.

Sincerely

Sarah Ferguson