

Submitter: Courtney Angeli  
On Behalf Of: Oregon Symphony Association  
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:

As a symphony patron and small business owner in downtown Oregon, I am writing in support of HB3189, which raises the grant budget of the Oregon Arts Commission. As an Oregonian, I was disappointed to learn that Oregon ranks 39th in arts funding. Arts are not just a central tenet of our state's cultural identity, they are a key driver of our economy. We must safeguard these institutions through proper investment at the state level.

This is not about "arts" as much as economic vitality. Organizations like the Oregon Symphony and the Portland Art Museum drive visitors to downtown, making it safer and fueling our local economy. It is critical that this continues.

Furthermore, I hope that the legislature will repeat last year's funding for Oregon's six major arts organizations. These institutions are anchors of our cultural community and are vital to the arts ecosystem and quality of life in our state.

Thank you for prioritizing the arts in this legislative session.

Regards,  
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