



culturaladvocacycoalition

Board of Directors

Steve Bass
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Peter Bilotta
Chamber Music Northwest

Karie Burch
Portland Art Museum

Adam Davis (Secretary)
Oregon Humanities

Scott Freck
Eugene Symphony

Cynthia Fuhrman
Portland Center Stage

Dr. Nancy Golden (Pres)
Professor, UO

Michael Greer
Oregon Ballet Theatre

Jeff Hawthorne
RACC

Ginny Lang

Isaac Marquez
City of Eugene

Rob Mawson
Heritage Cons. Group

J.S. May
Artists Repertory Theatre

Janet Plummer (Treasurer)
Oregon Symphony

Cindy Price
Astoria City Council

Jane Reid
Clack. County Arts Alliance

Cynthia Rider
Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Danny Santos
Oregon Shakespeare Festival

Ginger Savage
Crossroads Carnegie Art
Center

Dan Thorndike (Vice Pres)
Medford Fabrication

Kerry Tymchuk
Oregon Historical Society

Dana Whitelaw
High Desert Museum

February 8, 2019

Representative John Lively, Chair
Representatives Daniel Bonham, Vice Chair
Representative Julie Fahey, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Economic Development
Oregon State Capitol
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Bonham and Fahey, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the members of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition, we write to urge your strong support to extend the sunset for the tax credit which is helping to build the Oregon Cultural Trust. You will soon consider HB 2052 which will lengthen this tax credit for ten years and during that time will provide critical support to the work of the cultural community across Oregon, impacting both the health and wellness of our residents and the economic vitality of our communities. Our goal is that every corner of Oregon has access to the cultural sector and that every resident understands the importance of creative expression in their lives. We are making slow but steady progress towards that goal and the tax credit provides an important form of engagement for Oregonians.

Renewal of the tax credit is our top priority is the 2019 session. We support the original vision of the 2001 Legislature for a \$200 m.+ fund to support the arts, heritage and the humanities for generations in this state. The Cultural Tax Credit now generates close to \$5 million per year for the Cultural Trust. Up to 60 percent of that amount is distributed to nonprofit organizations working on cultural activities in Oregon and the remainder is invested in a permanent fund for Oregon culture. All told, since the Cultural Trust was founded, \$23 million has been distributed in grant funds across the state to county coalitions, tribes and statewide partners. A newly released impact study conducted by ECO Northwest concludes that the Cultural Trust has remarkable geographic reach, supporting cultural activities and organizations in every county with higher per capita spending, up to \$15 per capita, in rural counties where grant funding can be scarce.

We appreciate your consideration and support for HB 2052.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nancy Golden, President of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition