

From: [Andy Vobora](#)
To: [LRO](#)
Subject: HB2132
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2019 9:05:23 AM

March 28, 2019
House Committee On Revenue
Chair Nathanson and Committee Members

Travel Lane County is a non-profit professional organization that has the responsibility, as the destination marketing organization for Lane County, for marketing the Eugene, Cascades & Coast region as a visitor destination. We urge passage of HB2132. The arts are an integral part of every community in Oregon and yet we know funding for the arts and arts programs has diminished. While community groups, like The Rotary Club of Eugene who is funding artist in residence in each Eugene School District 4j elementary school, are stepping up to help fill the void it isn't enough. Funding provided through the Oregon Cultural Trust is providing needed funding throughout Oregon.

This program can do so much more. While established by the legislature in 2001, many people are only now learning about it and taking advantage of it. We know that arts is an economic engine that continues to grow. A 2015 study, titled Arts & Economic Prosperity 5, showed that arts and cultural institutions created more than \$62 million in annual spending just within the city of Eugene. So, while arts investments should be made for many positive reasons, the fact that arts means business cannot and should not be ignored.

Maintaining the Oregon Cultural Trust will keep arts investments growing. Travel Lane County supports the extending the sunset for tax credit for contributions to the Cultural Trust and we urge passage of HB2132.

Submitted by Kari Westlund, Travel Lane County President/CEO

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