

Testimony to and in reference to:

House Committee on Economic Development

RE: HB 2132, Oregon Cultural Trust

Extends sunset for tax credit for contributions to Trust for Cultural Development Account

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Candace Kita, and I'm a local artist, community organizer, and Cultural Work Manager at the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO). **I am writing to you today to extend my full support of extending the sunset for tax credit for contributions to the Oregon Cultural Trust for the Cultural Development Account for six years.**

I have been an active member of the Portland arts community over the last five years, working with numerous arts organizations and specifically supporting arts access to communities of color. The Oregon Cultural Trust has been a vital resource to expand access to the arts for the Asian and Pacific Islander communities that I work with. With funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust, last October we were able to host our East Portland Arts & Literary Festival at Portland Community College - Southeast. Over 500 people participated in this two-day event featuring workshops, performances, a book and craft fair, and kid-friendly arts activities, all led by local artists of color. Through the Trust's support, we were able to tangibly invest in East Portland's under-resourced arts ecology, hire and support over 100 local artists, and build meaningful connections between artists and East Portland residents amidst turbulent social and political times.

The impact of the Oregon Cultural Trust is not to be understated. It is a true access point to opportunities for connection, community-building, and creativity. The Trust tax credit is an innovative and impactful funding mechanism, and the arts ecology for the state of Oregon would not be the same without it. Thank you for your consideration of this letter of support.

Warmly,

Candace Kita

Cultural Work Manager

Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO)