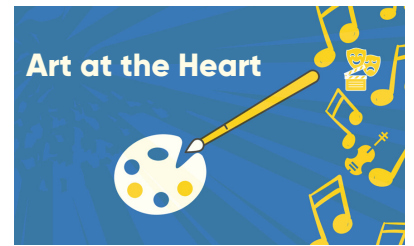


January 24, 2023



Hello,

I am Stephanie Magee from Art at the Heart, an advocacy site for including the arts as part of core education.

In today's multimedia society, the arts are the media, and therefore provide powerful and essential means of communication. The arts provide unique symbol systems and metaphors that convey and inform life experience.

Throughout history, the arts have provided essential means for individuals and communities to express their ideas, experiences, feelings, and deepest beliefs. Each discipline shares common goals but approaches them through distinct media and techniques. Understanding artwork provides insights into individuals' own and others' cultures and societies, while also providing opportunities to access, express, and integrate meaning across a variety of content areas.

Participation in the arts as creators, performers, and audience members enhances mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing, providing a source of lifelong satisfaction.

Across the nation, Oregon has experienced some of the longest pandemic-related shutdowns. The arts/culture sector has been heavily affected. We see recovery for this sector as a 5-year cycle.

The arts provide means for individuals to collaborate and connect with others in an enjoyable inclusive environment as they create, prepare, and share artwork that bring communities together.

Patrons and attendees are still slow to return to in-person gatherings; many performances have been cancelled as performers were sick with COVID-19. Attendance rates for some organizations are less than 59% of what they were before the pandemic.

I ask for support of HB 2459 and the \$50 million in funds to support the continued recovery and reinvention of the arts and culture sector.

We need the arts, and the arts need us.

Thank you,
Stephanie Magee
Art at the Heart
www.artattheheart.org