



February 14, 2023

The Honorable Dacia Grayber  
Chair, House Committee on Emergency Management  
Oregon State Legislature  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: HB 2498. Creation of the Cultural Impact Program

Dear Chair Grayber and Committee Members:

Thank you for scheduling HB 2498, a bill to create the Cultural Impact Program, for consideration in the current legislative session. We appreciate your time and attention to this bill, which will have a significant impact for nonprofit organizations and cultural institutions in the years to come. It will signal the importance of uplifting voices through artistic expressions and demonstrate a deep commitment to generating social capital for more empathetic communities.

Funding through the Oregon Cultural Trust provides a critical avenue for Five Oaks Museum to provide arts and culture programs and exhibitions about our region's history. Without financial support, like what HB 2498 would provide, we must make decisions that diminish what we can provide for the community and eliminate programming we know is needed. We recently sent out a survey to educators asking them to share the most significant barriers to accessing our learning offerings available for this term. We needed a clear understanding of where to focus our efforts and make sure we are serving community needs directly. Teachers took the time to respond and 82% shared that the field trip/presentation fee was a barrier for them to give this cultural offering to their students. Because of the long closure, we did not have data on the students we serve to apply for grants that usually allows us to help offset the cost of our field trips and presentations. This is just one example of how funding provides enrichment directly to those we want to serve and that the lack of funding has a significant impact by limiting access.

Cultural institutions do the innovative work of connecting people in the communities they serve and provide a space that steps out of one's own perspective. We know this generates conversation, provides enjoyment, encourages collective understanding, and inspires those who interact with art, history, and humanities. Downsizing cultural organizations leaves a deficit, eliminating meaningful and authentic experiences for the communities we live in.

Please show your support for arts, culture, and heritage organizations who are committed to providing vibrancy and learning resources during the long road to recovery. We appreciate your consideration and understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rachel Brumit". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Rachel Brumit

Director of Community Connections, Five Oaks Museum

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At PCC Rock Creek / 17677 NW Springville Rd, Portland OR, 97229 / on Kalapuyan land

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