



14 FEBRUARY 2023

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

Dear Chair Grayber and Committee Members,

Thank you for scheduling HB 2498, which creates the Cultural Impact Program, for early consideration in the current legislative session. We write to express strong support of this legislation.

Founded in 1987, the Bosco-Milligan Foundation/Architectural Heritage Center organizes exhibits, tours, and other public programs about Portland's unique built environment and cultural heritage. Our work helps us better understand and promote diversity in the built environment and engage more people in supporting Portland's architecture and culture--past, present, and future.

We're grateful for the work of the Oregon Cultural Trust and to be in a state that values and funds arts and culture. OCT is unique in the country for supporting over 1,600 arts and cultural nonprofits with grant funds to make sure there is vibrant and equitable access to arts and culture across the state. HB 2498 builds on the already critical work of the OCT to further sustain Oregon's invaluable arts sector.

Oregonians have built a corpus of over \$30 million dollars using the tax credit generously provided by the state. There was to be an additional infusion of funds into the OCT and it was to come through the sale of public lands. No public land sale revenue has reached the OCT. We are asking for that to be remedied by dedicating \$200 million in lottery bond capacity to OCT. These funds will be invested and the earnings granted out to eligible nonprofits to keep arts, culture, heritage, and humanities alive.

Studies have long shown how the arts and culture sector contributes to our economy through tourism, event attendance, and more. This sector also suffered greatly during, and after, the pandemic. Thank you for taking steps to advance the ongoing recovery and strengthening of Oregon arts and culture.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Whitlock  
Executive Director