

The Honorable Janelle Bynum  
Chair, House Committee on Economic Development  
and Small Business  
Oregon State Legislature  
Salem, Oregon. 97301

**RE: HB 3532, Trust for Cultural Development Administrative Cap Change**

Dear Chair Bynum and Committee Members:

My name is Dr. Margaret Trenchard-Smith and I am Secretary of the Columbia County Cultural Coalition; I have served on the CCCC's Board for the past seven years. I am writing to you today in support of HB 3532, a revenue neutral bill to change the administrative spending cap of the Trust for Cultural Development (dba The Oregon Cultural Trust – OCT). Our County Cultural Coalition supports this bill which will enable the Trust to better serve grantees through deeper organizational capacity.

The Oregon Cultural Trust is a unique-to-the nation vehicle for supporting over 1500+ eligible nonprofits with grant funds to meet our shared mission of making sure every Oregonian has access to arts and culture in their community. Oregonians have built a corpus of over \$30 million dollars using the tax credit generously provided by the state. The original administrative cap of \$400,000 needs to be modernized to keep pace with the current demands and needs of Oregon's cultural organizations, the 45 county and tribal coalitions, and the five statewide agency partners currently supported. HB 3532 is a revenue neutral policy change that will exponentially increase our collective capacity to serve our cultural community.

Local nonprofits turn to The Columbia County Cultural Coalition, funded by the Oregon Cultural Trust, for support. The grant funds provided to our rural county are essential to its continuing cultural vibrancy. They have supported local arts, cultural and heritage initiatives of all kinds—salmon festivals and murals, writing festivals and choral concerts, libraries and museums, oral histories and archives, and so much more. Columbia County's forward progress depends on these expressions of its distinctive character. The more effective the Oregon Cultural Trust becomes through offering greater administrative and technical support, the more our county will thrive.

Among its many activities, the Oregon Cultural Trust acts as the center of grant-funding bodies, coordinating grantors and potential grantees. It has managed this on meager funds. Imagine its effectiveness if the Oregon Cultural trust were adequately funded!

We in Columbia County know the power of creativity to build communities and collective understanding. We know the economic impacts that arts and culture bring to our state through tourism, event attendance and scholarly study. This sector has been among the hardest hit from the pandemic and recovery continues. Not only do we need more public financial support, but we need to update our tools and support our dedicated volunteer networks to serve the sector at this critical time.

On behalf of the Columbia County Cultural Coalition, we strongly urge your support for HB 3532. Thank you for the opportunity to hear directly from the field about the important work of the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Dr. Margaret Trenchard-Smith

on behalf of the  
Columbia County Cultural Coalition