

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 Julie Brimble and I am the volunteer Board of Directors President for the Jackson County Cultural Coalition. 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.

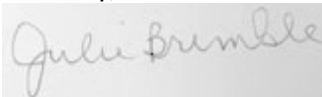
The Oregon Cultural Trust is a unique-to-the nation vehicle for supporting over 1500+ eligible nonprofits with grant funds to meet our shared mission of making sure every Oregonian has access to arts and culture in their community. Oregonians have built a corpus of over \$30 million dollars using the 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.

In Jackson County, the grants we provide have helped capture oral histories, broaden audiences for performances through technology, enable underserved youth to take part in cultural activities, and much more. Many of the organizations we support operate on small budgets, with volunteer boards or tiny staffs doing all the heavy lifting. With more support from the Trust, we could help these organizations learn more about fundraising, be more efficient in their operations, and develop even more programming for our communities.

We in Jackson 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. In Jackson County, many organizations are also recovering from the effects of the devastating Almeda Fire in 2020. 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 Jackson County Cultural Coalition, I 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Brimble". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

President, Jackson County Cultural Coalition

