



JUNIPER ARTS COUNCIL

GRANT COUNTY CULTURAL COALITION

P. O. Box 101
John Day, Oregon 97845-0101

March 28, 2023

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 Kris Beal and I am the president of the Juniper Arts Council as well as the Council's chair of the Grant 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.

As you know, 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 by the OCT. There is no question that HB 3532 will increase the Trust's collective capacity to serve our cultural community.

The Grant County Cultural Coalition is one of the 45 coalitions mentioned above. Each year our Coalition receives about \$7,000 from the Trust that we regrant to Grant County nonprofits and organizations that support our mission to promote the arts, arts education and cultural heritage in Grant County. While \$7,000 annually is not a lot of money, our grants have made a difference over the years to many Grant County organizations. In February of 2019, for example, the Juniper Arts Council signed an agreement with The Painted Sky Center for the Arts. PSCA, a start-up arts organization, has since applied for and received their nonprofit status as a 501c3

and began standing on its own in January 2023. Since our association began in 2019, PSCA has received small grants yearly from our Coalition. They may have made it to nonprofit status in four short years without our grants, but our Council believes those grants helped them establish PSCA as a organization capable of offering art and cultural opportunities for all age groups in our community, moving them along to their 501c3 status. We could provide many examples of grantees doing great things in Grant County because of the addition of our grant money but the bottom line is that not only do we need our yearly grant from the OCT, but we believe that HB 3532 will help our Coalition serve our community through much needed additional administrative and technical support.

I urge you to support HB 3532.

Thank you for the opportunity to hear directly from a field volunteer about the important work of the Oregon Cultural Trust.

Sincerely,

Kristine M. Beal

(electronically signed 3/28/2023)

Kris Beal

President, Juniper Arts Council

Chair, Grant County Cultural Coalition