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Submitter: Andrea Tichy, Chair, Board of Directors
On Behalf of: Cultural Coalition of Washington County
Committee: Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Measure: HB2459 Arts Recovery Funding Bill

April 7, 2023

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Andrea Tichy, and I serve as Board Chair of the Cultural Coalition of Washington County (CCWC), in addition to being a member of the executive leadership team at Portland Opera.

CCWC is an all-volunteer organization that serves as one of the state's 45 county and tribal coalitions established by the Oregon Cultural Trust. In Washington County, we have more than 100 non-profit arts, cultural, and heritage organization in rural, suburban, and urban environments.

In order of our organization to support a thriving Washington County that is positioned for growth, we need to make sure that our arts ecosystem is whole. We know that the organizations we serve as still in crisis trying to navigate years of pandemic impacts, and current economic conditions.

We are hearing constantly from small and midsize nonprofits, that they need help, and are trying to navigate continued crises. Our volunteer board is doing everything we can to better serve them, and increase our capacity. Please pass this measure, and position the anchor organizations in our field, as well as CCWC and the constellation of coalitions that serve as OCT's local connectors across the state, for sustainability while our creative economy recovers. Please support of the legislation for OCT to be made whole, and for relief for our arts, cultural, and heritage sector.

I also share our thanks for the support of the members of the non-partisan arts and culture caucus: thank you for being our champions during these challenging times for our community!

Andrea Tichy, Chair
Cultural Coalition of Washington County
CCWASHCO.ORG