



2020 Auburn Ave Baker City OR 97814 541-523-5369 [www.crossroads-arts.org](http://www.crossroads-arts.org)

April 27, 2023

Dear Sen. Steiner and Rep Sanchez and the members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means--

On behalf of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon and Crossroads Carnegie Art Center in Baker City, Oregon I would like to encourage your support for critical measures supporting Arts, Cultural, Heritage and Humanities program throughout Oregon.

**HB 2459- \$50 m. in additional recovery funding for the arts and cultural sector.** The arts and culture sector has not recovered from the pandemic and the desperate need for additional support for our sector is vital. Many organizations are experiencing attendance rates at less than 50% of what they were before the pandemic. The serious news from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival tells you how concerning recovery support still is. Recovery from the pandemic for the cultural sector is proving to be a five-year time period.

**Ways and Means: CREF Capital Projects.** In a unique arrangement, the Oregon Ways and Means Committee, permits the CACO to conduct a statewide RFP project to help prioritize projects for state capital investment. Projects go through an intensive peer review process to assess readiness and community impact. 16 projects were selected totaling \$11.8 m. in our request for the session, they represent large and small, from \$3 m. to \$150,000, locations all over the state, and all kinds of arts, culture, historic preservation, and heritage sites.

**HB 2498: \$200 m. In long-term funding for the corpus of the Oregon Cultural Trust.** We are asking lawmakers to keep the original \$200 m. pledge they made to fund the Oregon Cultural Trust through the sale of public lands. No lands have been sold so the Trust thus far has been built by Oregonians through the cultural trust tax credit. We seek revenue from **lottery bonds** to be dedicated to the Oregon Cultural Trust with earnings spent for operations grants to the 1500+ nonprofits eligible for OCT/OAC grants.

**HB 3532: Replacing Oregon Cultural Trust Administrative Cap with Percentage of Earnings.** The OCT is artificially capped in its administrative costs by the original legislation which created this unique-to-the-nation public funding mechanism of arts and culture. It is time to modernize this mechanism so it can grow as the field grows providing technical assistance and support. This is a revenue neutral bill which will streamline the work of the Oregon Cultural Trust.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions at [ginger@crossroads-arts.org](mailto:ginger@crossroads-arts.org) or 541-523-5369.

Thank you,

Ginger L Savage, Executive Director Crossroads Carnegie Art Center

Board Member of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon