

Submitter: Dylan Reiff  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means  
Measure: SB5506

My name is Dylan Reiff I am writing in support of HB2459 the Arts Recovery Funding Bill.

My organization is a nonprofit comedy theater and training center. We are the heart of Portland's local comedy scene and put on Comedy in the Park where thousands of Portlanders gather in Laurelhurst Park every Summer to see local favorites and national headliners such as Kyle Kinane, Brandie Posey, Sarah Ian Karmel, and more!!

We have a community of thousands of audience members and hundreds of performers and students who were cut off from live performance, the ability to grow and develop their voice in comedy, and ultimately their home stage when Kickstand lost our venue during the pandemic. With the inability to hold in person classes and live performance, the loss of ticket sale, tuition, and concession and beverage sales we have had to build back from an 80% revenue loss since we have been able to come back to live shows.

We have been making the most of what we can - monthly pop up shows, free Summer all ages comedy shows in Laurelhurst Park, and we have finally built back our revenue streams to about 66% of where we were pre pandemic... which while still very scary has given us the faith in momentum and resources to sign a new lease our future home venue.

However the cost of promoting, paying performers, and building back our audiences and operations is daunting since our revenue and audience numbers are still in such a state of recovery since the Pandemic

Support from HB2459 would give organizations like mine the safety net and springboard to bridge the gap as we move into the future of what live events look like going forward - which carry additional costs for safety staffing, and promotion. While venues are opening back up we are all still operating at 60-75% of our revenue streams pre pandemic. This funding will allow us to make significant and sustainable growth as audiences continue to feel more comfortable coming back to live events and performance.

Thanks you for your time and understanding and please support the Arts Recovery Fund.

Best,  
Dylan Reiff