

Honorable Janelle Bynum, Chair  
Honorable Ed Diehl and Daniel Nguyen, Vice Chairs and Committee Members  
House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: **Support HB 4124**- Artis/Culture Funding for Capital and Resiliency

I urge you to support HB4124 that funds both the 14 projects remaining on the Cultural Resources Economic Fund (CREF) slate, as well as providing additional funding for the arts/culture/heritage sector.

This \$27million in funding will boost local economies; by offering the recipient arts organizations this investment, you give them agency. You empower them with the ability to leverage these awards into greater dollars that then becomes a major Oregon economic driver.

Arts activities are central to the State's economy, stimulating more healthy activity and spending in the communities across our state. As a creative entrepreneur starting a business that uses local creative energy to restore and revitalize our downtown cores, I know that this small investment can yield a big impact!

As well, these dollars are needed to stabilize and sustain these organizations as they struggle to build back their supporting audiences since Covid losses.

Plus, beyond the jobs it creates and sustains, surveys taken by the Met Group as they draft the 10-year Regional Cultural Plan show that over 70% of citizens believe arts are central to a healthy quality of life.

*We are in dire need of more of that!*

Please support and fund our vital local creative work by passing HB 4124.

*Be Audacious!*

*Loni Gray*

**Our Creative Streets,**

*for the FUN of it!*