



Astoria Downtown Historic District Association

Encouraging community involvement and investment in preserving the character of historic downtown Astoria while promoting its health and future.

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To the Oregon House Committee on Economic Development and Small Business:

The Astoria Downtown Historic Development Association (ADHDA) emphatically supports HB 4124 in its entirety. An accredited Main Street organization since 1986, ADHDA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve and advance historic downtown Astoria's culture and character through inspired partnerships, historic preservation and community engagement to support a vibrant and resilient economic future for all Astorians.

According to the recent State Arts Agency Legislative Appropriations Preview, **Oregon ranks 41st in the country for state support of the Arts.** In stark contrast, the Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 (AEP6) study from [Americans for the Arts](#) released last October, reveals that Oregon's arts and culture sector generated \$829 million in spending by organizations and event attendees in FY2022. The results include data from 19 Oregon regions and communities, whose participation was supported by Travel Oregon. Oregon's data shows that 8.9 million attendees of arts and culture events across Oregon spent an average of \$39 per event for a total expenditure of \$330,920,191, excluding the cost of the admission ticket. Event spending includes meals, transportation/parking, souvenirs/retail, and hotel stays. Close to one million of the attendees were visitors. **Astoria's average spending per attendee is twice that of both the national and state of Oregon spending averages.** Nationally, America's nonprofit arts and culture sector is a \$151.7 billion industry – one that supports 2.6 million jobs and generates \$29.1 billion in government revenue.

Prioritizing investing in the arts, culture and humanities is not only an investment in Oregon's economy as demonstrated by the AEP6 data, it is also an investment in our communities- especially in rural areas such as Astoria. Arts, culture and humanities honor our past, celebrate who we are today and foster hope for future generations.

Please invest in our communities so that they may thrive and thank-you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 4124.

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