

# Unfinished Arts and Culture Business

CULTURAL  
ADVOCACY  
COALITION  
OF OREGON

In Oregon, the arts and culture sector is larger than powerhouse sectors like transportation, utilities, and agriculture. Yet, the state is nearly last in the nation, ranking 41st for funding of the arts. Moreover, the sector is struggling to recover from a pandemic, livability challenges in the metro area, and inflationary costs. Organizations have paused seasons, sold assets, delayed hiring, and implemented other cost-saving measures. It's not enough. As lawmakers look to improve livability in communities, promote social and emotional well-being, and build resilient local economies, they need to support this dynamic sector. House Bill 4124 seeks to accomplish two things:

## I. Complete unfinished business, funding the remaining 14 projects on the Cultural Resources Economic Fund (CREF) slate

For over a decade, CACO has led a rigorous, peer-review process to suggest transformative CREF projects across the state. Until 2023, the projects received full funding. Last year, only 2 of the 16 were funded, both in Portland.

**\$7.8 million needed**



## 2. Provide a one-time infusion for the sector to increase resiliency and kickstart local economies

The bill would provide \$19.38 million to arts & culture organizations through an equitable grant program operated by Business Oregon.

The impact of the arts is felt far and wide by Oregonians. We ask for your support of the pending bill. Watch Oregon's landscape transform.

## Impact of the arts

**\$9.3 billion in economic activity**

**62,725 Oregon jobs**

**\$829 million Oregon's arts & culture economy, 3.4% of the total**

**\$155 million in local, state, and federal government revenue**

**\$39.14 average spent for cultural events outside admission costs**