

Submitter: Stephanie Whitlock

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB4124

I support HB 4124 and urge your support and to pass this bill which invests \$27 million in the infrastructure, programs, and operations of arts/culture/heritage organizations across the state.

As the recent Executive Director of a preservation non-profit organization in Portland, the Architectural Heritage Center, and with thirty years of working experience in the arts/culture/preservation industry, I can attest to how critical this investment is to arts/culture/heritage organizations as well as to the communities of which they are part. A common misperception is that the arts/culture/heritage sector is “expendable”, and it can therefore get the short end of the funding stick. In fact, this sector revitalizes communities and drives local economies; stimulates tourism, job creation, and job retention; and has invaluable educational, humanistic, and civic value. Your investment in this sector will have manifold impact in Oregon.

I greatly appreciate the work of your committee and the opportunity to comment on this bill.