

Submitter: Mary Lou Hennrich

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB4124

Feb. 9, 2024

My name is Mary Lou Hennrich and I live at 7206 SE Salmon St.

I am a second generation Oregonian and my grandmother came from San Francisco, birthed her three boys and a daughter in the Rose City Park neighborhood. My father was one of these boys and grew up on NE 54th St. My grandmother sang and played the organ and piano for church and other local organizations, including the German American Society.

She instilled in her children and me, her granddaughter, a love of music, art and the theater, especially musical theater and the symphony. It was a special occasion to get dressed up and go "downtown" with Grandma and attend a play or the symphony. Although I don't seem to have inherited Grandma's music "gene" I took many years of piano lessons and spent many wonderful hours while Grandma played and sang.

Although my talents did not reside in "the arts" I know attending live performances greatly enhanced my life and academic successes. I have carried on this tradition with my daughter and son and now my grandchildren. Supporting the ARTS is ESSENTIAL to good health (I'm a nurse and know the research) and academic success.

My daughter who now is a PPS Special Education teacher with a PhD, struggled in elementary and high school and without the ability to perform in school plays, and musical performances, she may not have persevered to be the fantastic teacher she is now! Going to local high school, University and professional performances sometimes had us making budgetary trade-offs, but they were well worthy making.

You have hear/know about the positive economic impacts that the Arts have on our communities and state and it seems that the \$27 million requested in HB4124 is WELL WORTH this relatively small amount of state GF. Please recommend this bills passage and FULL funding.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Hennrich