

Submitter: Elizabeth Peyton

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB4124

I'm writing in support of HB4124 specifically to encourage appropriating funds to support Oregon cultural organizations. I'm a musician and educator, and like many musicians, I sustain a full-time portfolio career by balancing roles in several organizations serving the greater Oregon community. It's important to highlight the role that cultural institutions play in attracting dollars to downtown Portland small businesses via the high quality of arts offerings that we offer here in Portland, likewise for other organizations throughout the state. Economists have repeatedly demonstrated that each governmental dollar invested in arts and cultural institutions yields an average of \$7-13 return on investment— this is a significant leveraging that yields multiple benefits for the entire community.

The impact of COVID-19 on the arts in Oregon has been disproportionately high since 2020, and funding measures are both necessary and prudent to ensure a continued presence of these important magnet organizations. They significantly contribute to Oregon's economy and sustain its unique place as an attractive metropolitan destination to visit and take up residence. Thank you for supporting this bill!

HB 2124 means a lifeline for performing arts organizations and the performers that are employed by them post-Covid. I'm a musician with the Portland Opera Orchestra and freelancer and the effects of Covid are still being felt with many of us still only playing not even half the services that we did pre-Covid. This area of the economy has not bounced back like others. For us that means half the money that we used to make and more stress for us trying to figure out how to make ends meet with other part-time employment in non-music related jobs. Musicians and other performers spend a significant part of their lives keeping up their valuable skills for the benefit of their communities. We need the greater community's support in keeping us and the performing arts alive so we can continue to be the beating heart of Oregon culture. Please support HB 2124 - it's not just a frill for Oregon - it's critical income for many of us! Thanks for your support!