

Submitter: Frank Langfitt

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3189

Chair Nguyen, Vice Chairs Diehl and Isadore, and Committee Members,

I am testifying in support of HB 3189. But first, two thank yous to the Oregon Legislature. First, thank you for last year's funding, and second, thank you for considering additional funding this year.

It is not necessary to repeat the statistics of where Oregon ranks nationally in arts funding. What does help is to emphasize that the arts are not only important to the minds and spirits of Oregonians, but help drive the life and economies of Oregon communities - from the Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, to the High Desert Museum in Bend, to major organizations in Portland such as the Oregon Symphony (which brings over 200,000 to downtown Portland over its season). Major arts organizations, as well as the other organizations in the State desperately need the funding that can be provided by HB 3189. (For example, the exit of corporate headquarters from Portland over the years has led to significantly less corporate support for the arts.) And...Oregon communities desperately need the arts organizations.

Thank you for considering HB 3189 favorably, and please, please work for the passage of arts funding this year.

Thank you,

Frank Langfitt
Portland, Oregon