

February 15, 2025

Representative Nguyen, Chair  
Representatives Diehl and Isadore, Vice-Chairs  
House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Trade  
Oregon Legislature  
Salem, Oregon 97301

**RE: HB 3189, HB 3191**

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

Thank you for scheduling time to hear from leaders of Oregon's arts, culture, heritage and humanities organizations on February 17, 2025. As director emerita of the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education (OJMCHÉ) and a board member of the Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon (CACO), I enthusiastically add my support for **HB 3189 and HB 3191** and urge your positive consideration and adoption.

CACO represents more than 350 members across the state from individual artists to large organizations, from tribal coalitions to historic properties, from traveling exhibits to place-based restorations. We know the power of creativity to build communities, deepen collective understanding, and generate economic impact. Our mission is to make sure that every Oregonian has access to creativity in their communities across the state because we know that our many cultural and artistic assets will inspire, heal and build community health and strength.

CACO 2025 priorities include the successful passage of **House Bill 3189**, which will raise the grants budget of the Oregon Arts Commission to \$10 million which represents a doubling of available funds to be distributed to arts and culture providers across the state. We are also looking for the successful passage of **House Bill 3191**, which presents 14 cultural projects for capital investment through the Cultural Resources Economic Funds (CREF) for a total amount of \$9.3 million.

CREF funding is of special importance to me – in 2022 OJMCHÉ received a CREF allocation, which enabled the museum to expand its space and open a core exhibition, *Human Rights After the Holocaust*. In the six months that the exhibition was open, prior to my retirement in December 2023, we welcomed more than 15,000 visitors – adults and students alike – to the exhibition.

A third issue CACO is prioritizing for the 2025 legislative session is supporting one-time funding for Oregon's large arts organizations. In 2023, the legislature appropriated dollars directly to this group of providers to partially-match a pledge made by private philanthropy.

I look forward, with appreciation, to the success of these bills, of even more urgency today, given the efforts of the federal administration to cut funding for arts and culture – and so much more.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judy", followed by a horizontal flourish line.

Judy Margles  
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