

**DEB PATTERSON
STATE SENATOR/SENADORA ESTATAL
DISTRICT 10/DISTRITO 10**



OREGON STATE SENATE/SENADO DEL ESTADO DE OREGON

February 19, 2025.

Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Diehl, Vice-Chair Isadore, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Deb Patterson. I am the State Senator for Senate District 10, which includes South Salem, West Salem, Monmouth, and Independence. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 3191, which would provide funding for arts and culture organizations in Oregon.

The arts are essential for strengthening our communities, improving individual well-being, and strengthening the economy. The arts and culture sector brings people together, supports social and civic engagement, and drives employment and income for local businesses. As Oregon recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic, the arts were essential for helping our communities heal. If Oregon is to thrive, we must support and invest in the arts.

Two of the organizations listed in HB 3191 fall within my district. The first is the Elsinore Theater, which was established in Salem almost 100 years ago and is a historic landmark in the city's downtown district. The other is the B-17 Alliance Foundation, which houses the B-17G Flying Fortress known as "Lacey Lady" and honors the valiant men and women who served the United States during World War II. I am grateful to the Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon for endorsing these organizations to receive funding for capital projects in our community, and I urge the committee to support HB 3191.

Thank you for your consideration,

Deb Patterson