

Submitter: Stacey Ray

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3189

On behalf of Lane Arts Council, I am writing to express our strong support for the appropriation of general funds to Oregon Business Development Department for the Oregon Arts Commission. The Oregon Arts Commission is a critical agency in ensuring the continued strength and vitality of arts and culture in Oregon, and therefore a critical agency for Oregonians.

The arts are a force in our state; one that unifies us and celebrates our diversity, inspires us to have a vision for the future, fuels innovation, bolsters economic strength, supports our wellbeing, and builds vibrant communities. It's benefits are deep and far-reaching, impacting everything from our schools, hospitals, main streets, public spaces, local businesses, and so much more. The arts are part of what it means to be an Oregonian, and the Oregon Arts Commission is a key part ensuring the sustainability of arts and culture. Oregon ranks 8/10 for arts vibrancy (Cultural DataArts) and is the #1 state in the country for number of individual contributions to the arts... and yet our state continues to hover around 40th in the nation for state arts funding.

It is the time now to provide the critical and impactful support that Oregon Arts Commission needs to continue to support our state's arts and culture ecosystem.