Oregon Arts Commission 2023-2025 Legislative Biennium Session
Governor’s Recommended Budget $4,287,169

The Oregon Arts Commission increases engagement opportunities and arts services for Oregonians by providing support to arts organizations, community-based art projects, arts in education and individual artists. The Arts Commission’s portfolio of grantmaking programs and services includes operating support for 268 arts organizations annually and 210 project-based awards for arts programs and artists.

The number of arts organizations receiving operating support has grown by 200 over the past 10 years. The growth is due to active community outreach and a commitment to reducing application barriers. Operating support is the most valuable type of support for organizations as it is unrestricted.

The Arts Commission's General Fund budget has remained relatively flat since the 2007-09 biennium, averaging $4 million (per biennium) for 15 years.

Oregon public support for the arts ranks 38th in the nation per capita.

In FY2021, 182 Oregon arts organizations reported $177 million in direct expenditures, employed 8,820 people and had 3.3 million attendees/participants.

In FY2019, 163 Oregon arts organizations reported $281 million in direct expenditures, employed 11,923 people, and had 4.7 million attendees/participants.

Additional state funding would allow arts organizations to recover and fully reopen in a responsible way, along with a directive to provide more access – especially to those who have been historically underrepresented – to programming in the future.

Arts and creativity strengthen Oregon. They make us stronger as individuals, families, communities and as a state. The arts are the backbone of innovation, prosperity, and thriving people and places. Public funding for arts and creativity is a high-return investment that benefits every Oregonian.

Economy - Arts and creativity are an American economic engine. They provide people with the foundation for creativity, equipping an innovative workforce, generating new ideas in every field and keeping our nation globally competitive. The Oregon arts and culture sector was a $9.3 billion industry in 2021 (3.4% of the state’s GDP), representing 62,725 jobs (3.2% of Oregon’s workforce), and total compensation of $5.3 billion.

Health and Well-Being - Arts and creativity improve Americans’ health and well-being. They are one of the most effective treatments for trauma, depression and anxiety, including beneficial outcomes for our nation’s veterans.

Communities - From rural towns to big cities, arts and creativity strengthen the fabric of America’s communities. They celebrate local culture – both cherished and new traditions – and tell the important stories of people and places.

Education - Arts and creativity strengthen education. They set young people up for success, close the achievement gap and improve test scores.

Beauty and Inspiration - Arts and creativity inspire us and bring inspiration and beauty into our lives.
Oregon Ranks 38th Nationally Per Capita

Number of Grant Recipients Increased by 200