

HB 3532: Trust for Cultural Development Administrative Cap



HB 3532 addresses and removes the administrative spending cap of \$400,000 described in ORS 359.426. Removing the cap will enable the Trust for Cultural Development (i.e., Oregon Cultural Trust or OCT) to modernize operations to better serve the cultural sector.

The OCT is housed within Business Oregon and created 21 years ago. The OCT encourages Oregonians to donate to one or more of the state's 1,500+ cultural nonprofits and make a matching donation to the OCT. The donation to the OCT is a 100% state tax credit.

Each year the OCT raises about \$5.5 million. Annually, 60% of the funds are allocated to grant-making programs and services; 40% is allocated to a permanent fund, which is currently valued at \$30 million. The OCT allocates annual grant awards directly to cultural organizations, 45 county and tribal coalitions, and five statewide agency partners.

The current demands and needs of the cultural sector have far outpaced the OCT's ability to effectively serve the field and donors. Removing the spending cap would also increase the OCT's ability to address capacity issues facing many county and tribal coalitions.

Changes proposed by HB 3532 include:

- Remove the \$400,000 administrative cap outlined in ORS 359.426.
- Replace the specific dollar limitation with an annual amount not to exceed five percent of the value of the permanent fund.
- Give Business Oregon, the OCT Board of Directors, and OCT staff the ability to analyze and meet the administrative and operating needs of the OCT.

Recent projects funded by the Cultural Trust:

- Talent Historical Society: \$8,451 - To document the Alameda Fire, its impact on the community of Talent, and the town's recovery to preserve and share. The Historical Society has been collecting stories, images, and videos in the voices of residents in two languages. The history will be shared with the public in a book, exhibit in the museum, and a portable "Fire Remnants" exhibit.
- Friends of the Santiam Ski Pass, Sisters: \$29,080 - To support the restoration of historic Santiam Pass Ski Lodge through repair and restoration of its iconic stone foundation, chimney, and fireplace.
- PassinArt: A Theatre Company, Portland: \$37,336 - To support 2023 Pacific Northwest Multi-Cultural Readers Series & Film Festival.

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