

**SUZANNE BONAMICI**  
**Candidate for Senate District 17, Democrat**

*Recognizing that job creation is a top priority in the current economic condition in Oregon and that investment in the creative arts & culture sector function as a jobs-driver, what policies or practices will you implement to continue to grow jobs in the sector and/or encourage more creative businesses to locate in Oregon?*

**We need to do all we can to encourage more creative businesses to locate in Oregon, including supporting arts in our schools and communities. The creative sector is essential to our economy and our ability to compete in a global marketplace. Programs like the Oregon Cultural Trust and organizations like the Regional Arts and Culture Council are indicative of support for the arts and must be continued and strengthened. Additionally we should continue the film tax credit and incorporate arts and culture in statewide and regional planning and tourism efforts.**

*The Oregon Cultural Trust is an innovative, statewide private-public partnership raising significant new contributed funds. Each year, the Trust is directed by law to keep 58% of its annual revenues in the Trust endowment, and distribute 42% in direct support of Oregon's arts, heritage and humanities. Donors to the Trust are eligible for an Oregon income tax credit for contributions, after first making a matching gift to one or more of nearly 1,300 cultural nonprofits. Do you support the current Cultural Trust tax credit?*

**I do support the Cultural Trust tax credit, both as a legislator and as a citizen who donates to arts organizations and to the OCT.**

*During 2009, \$1.8 million dollars was "swept" by the Legislature from the Cultural Trust for general government purposes to rebalance the state budget. Would you support statutory language that clearly describes the purpose and better protects the donor intent of contributions made for the purpose of growing the Trust endowment?*

**Yes, I would support language to clearly describe the purpose and better protect the donor intent of contributions. Even though only a portion of the funds was swept and a significant part left in the fund, it was a decision that caused a great deal of concern and I will do all I can to avoid any similar sweep of OCT funds in the future.**

*In what specific ways have you supported arts and culture – as a private citizen, as a public or private employee, and/or as an elected official?*

**For several years I have supported the arts as a donor, a volunteer in the arts in several public schools, a board member of a non-profit arts organization, and a regular patron. I also donate to the Cultural Trust and purchase Cultural Trust license plates to further support the OCT. Additionally, I was a guest speaker at the Oregon Arts Education Congress.**