

DEBORAH BOONE

Candidate for House District 32, 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?

I have been working with the Oregon Office of Film and Video to secure funding from the state to encourage the industry to work in Oregon. We were successful in getting the \$5 million in OregonINC. for incentives to film & video production companies but we need to do more. Oregon could become the next Michigan, as it is the next after California in film & video production thanks, in part, to its generous incentives program. I am also forming a 'Film Caucus' of my colleagues to help build our own coalition to advocate for this sector within the legislature.

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 am a huge supporter of the Oregon Cultural Trust. I loved the idea from its inception and although I was not yet elected to my seat at the time Ben Westlund (didn't know whether to call him Rep., Sen., or Treasurer!) sponsored the bill that established the Trust, I worked hard to help make it a reality. Unfortunately, I did not feel comfortable giving to the Trust this past year after the Co-Chairs of Ways & Means 'swept' the fund to balance the state budget. I still give to my favorite programs and projects. I hope that we can do something to ensure its safety before that happens again. I am working on a bill that does that only in another sector but would be willing to do it for the Trust as well.

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?

I would definitely support such a bill but I believe we'll have to make it stronger than just redefining the purpose. We'll have to prohibit the 'sweeping' outright. Many programs and projects within my district have benefitted from the Oregon Cultural Trust and I want to continue to see that happen.

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?

I earned one of my degrees in art, (painting) from PSU and did undergraduate work in art at Univ. of Washington. I collect art in several media from my district's artists and have much of it on display in my Capitol office. I have encouraged many artists over the years to submit their work for shows, especially in the Governor's office for their monthly exhibits and as much as possible I attend openings, shows, performances and exhibits in my district, in others areas of the state, and around the world. I even taught a class with the

Artists in the Schools program in Cannon Beach many years ago. You can definitely count me as a strong advocate for arts and culture. We spend at least one week every year in Ashland, and we enjoy other art related events, like the Oregon Cabaret Theater, in the Ashland area. We have been members of the Portland Art Museum. I have contributed military artifacts not only to local veterans associations, but sent some of my late father's World War I artifacts to the Marine Corps Heritage Museum in Quantico, Virginia – personal photographs of the WW I Marine Corps Aeronautics Company in the Azores Islands – and a historical part of an air craft that the museum needed to complete a display. I purchase jewelry made by local artists and music created locally. We have purchased paintings by local artists as well. In the past I have helped build theater props and sets at Aloha High School. My wife worked sewing costumes for the same program. My wife and I encouraged our two daughters to take part in arts and music in school. Our older daughter was active in high school (and college) drama, and had the lead role in the spring musical play her senior year. Our younger daughter was active in band and was the first female Drum Major at Aloha High School her senior year. Further, I have been a member and contributor to Oregon Public Broadcasting since 1972.