

Critical HB2459 Funding

Overview

During the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic, arts & cultural organizations in Oregon stayed closed longer than in any other state. As a result, they have also been slow to recover. They've faced a sluggish audience return, cancelled shows, and increased operational costs.

6.4%

Amount the U.S. arts economy has shrunk, nearly twice the rate of the overall economy at 3.4 percent ¹

\$1.6 billion

Amount the Oregon creative economy lost in 2020 ²

25%

Average annual revenue decline in 2022 for Oregon arts organizations, based on a survey of 40 our members

Unfortunately, many organizations are facing severe financial realities and enacting cost-saving measures like layoffs and furloughs. Recently the Oregon Shakespeare Festival announced departures of their executive director, director of development, and 12 other staff. They have also furloughed 7 people and delayed or stopped hiring 18 open positions.

Why We Need HB 2459

House Bill 2459 supports the arts & culture sector by providing \$50 million in one-time, recovery funding to organizations of all sizes across Oregon.

The Cultural Advocacy Coalition of Oregon worked with arts and culture stakeholders to determine the most expeditious and equitable funding distribution mechanism.

We're proud that roughly half of the funding will be distributed via grants to organizations through their local county coalitions. The other half will be directly allocated to larger arts organizations and nearly 100 independent venues across Oregon.

"We have always been able to take a stick of chewing gum, duct tape, and wire and make something amazing out of it, but we can't afford the gum or the wire."

-comment from CACO member survey

¹ "New Data Show Economic Impact of COVID-19 on Arts & Culture Sector," National Endowment for the Arts, May 15, 2022

² "Lost art: Measuring COVID-19's devastating impact on America's creative economy," Brookings Institution, August 11, 2020