

# Mark Gordon - Governor (R)

## WyAA Arts and Culture Survey Responses

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***What arts and cultural activities have you and your family members attended, participated in, or supported in the past year?***

\* Dance, Theatre, Music, Film/Media, Literary Arts, Visual Arts. My family and I are proud supporters of the Ucross Foundation and their efforts to foster Wyoming artists.

***Considering your own personal background and education, what arts or cultural classes, programs or activities did you participate in?***

\* Instrumental Music, Dance, Film/Photography, Literary Arts, Digital Arts/Design

***What role do you believe Wyoming and/or local government should play in supporting arts and culture to enhance economic and community development?***

\* Developing and growing Wyoming's arts and cultural communities is critical to the future of our state. If we want to retain and attract families, entrepreneurs and a robust workforce, we need a vibrant arts community and diverse cultural opportunities. What's more, the arts and more general "creative economy," has the potential to grow exponentially in Wyoming, driving new business and creating jobs across the state. Downtown development authorities, local chambers of commerce, arts councils and numerous private-sector driven organizations play a critical role in supporting arts and culture that can help drive economic development from the ground up while helping to make Wyoming an even more wonderful place to live.

***What role do you believe Wyoming and/or local government should play in supporting arts and culture to provide a comprehensive education for Wyoming K-12 students?***

\* Arts education has proven time and again to be critical for the success of students. Exposure to arts education can improve school attendance, improve critical thinking and creative skills and has been shown to help students do better in other subjects such as math, reading and social studies. While education funding will continue to be a challenge for Wyoming government in the years to come, I believe arts education must continue to play a role in student learning.

***What role do you believe Wyoming and/or local government should play in supporting arts and culture to enhance quality of life?***

\* As I stated above, creating fertile ground for the arts to flourish is an important part of improving the quality of life for residents across Wyoming. Our local art scenes should be as unique as our communities, and accessible and affordable to all. If we want to retain our citizens, particularly young people, we need a vibrant arts community and diverse cultural opportunities available in towns big and small.

***The recently-released ENDOW Report proposes increasing the Wyoming Cultural Trust corpus to \$100 million. Rank your degree of support for this proposal.***

\* Supportive

***The ENDOW Report also proposes a Creative Ready Community Grant and Loan Program that would expand state financial support for innovative arts-oriented community projects. Rank your degree of support for this proposal.***

\* Supportive

***The ENDOW Report also suggests making it easier for Wyoming communities to impose a local tax to build creative and cultural sector "capacity." Rank your degree of support for this proposal.***

\* Supportive

***For the 2018-19 grant cycle, the Wyoming Arts Council distributed more than \$800,000 in grant funds to local communities. (The total amount requested in 2018 was \$1.45 million.) How do you feel about this level of financial support to Wyoming communities and local arts organizations?***

\* Just Right