

Britney Wallesch - SD06 (D)

WyAA 2020 Arts and Culture Survey Response

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

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

* Instrumental Music, Theatre, Film/Photography, Literary Arts, Vocal Music

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

* As a member of the external board for the Wyoming Institute for Humanities Research, I feel very strongly about the critical role these programs have in boosting, driving, and enhancing our state and local economies. The creative economy supports thousands of jobs across Wyoming and helps to make our communities, places, and people actually want to live and enjoy. Because of these essential roles, I support policies that both help bring awareness to and support for these programs (both financially and through public education) and which will bring new voices to important conversations on the state's economic opportunities to the table. It is an underrepresented sector with a lot of value, expertise, and insight.

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?

* I do see arts and cultural programming as part of a comprehensive education for our youth. As such, I support including these programs in the basket of goods and funding them accordingly.

What role do you believe Wyoming and/or local government should play in supporting arts and culture, diversifying the local economy, and enhancing quality of life?

* During the early days of the COVID-19 crisis, I was overcome by the way the arts community came together to provide emotional, mental, and sometime spiritual support for our struggling community. I, like so many others, found hope among the folks who drive our creative economy. There was light in the darkness with the help of poetry, books, binge-watching Netflix, or exploring new music - thanks to our artists. We owe it to our future, to the quality and richness of our lived experience, to give equal weight to these programs and services. In the same way that the state engages and supports industry like energy, banking, and technology - so too do the arts and humanities deserve our time and attention. There isn't a place on the next question to explain my rating, so I want to put that here. I am generally supportive of considering revenue reform efforts that can help boost our economy in many ways. But - I do not know the argument for the use of a sales or property tax, nor how it compares to other revenue options, well enough to tell you if I support it. I would like to hear discussion about a variety of proposed revenue generating mechanisms. In general I am very supportive of exploring policies that will help support this sector of our economy.

Rate your level of support for a local-option sales or property tax to support cultural activities and development.

* Neither Unsupportive nor Supportive

Rate your level of support for expanding the lodging tax to support cultural activities and development.

* Supportive

According to Americans for the Arts, statewide cultural district programs have been established in 14 states and more states are considering implementation of such policies. Rate your level of support for local cultural districts, funded by an expanded lodging, property or sales tax.

* Supportive