

NAME	TITLE	REP DISTRICT	PARTY	What kind of investments do you think the state should make in Colorado's creative industries that would help advance the economy, grow jobs and enhance our quality of life?	Recognizing that creativity is essential to all learning and innovation, how would you ensure that children in public schools have access to integrated learning and creative experiences?
Susan Lontine	Representative	1	D	I have always been impressed with the public investments that Denver has advocated for and how those investments have paid off in a vibrant downtown and increased quality of life for city residents. I would like to encourage other municipalities to follow the example of Denver and would be happy to work with the counties to find ways to help cities realize their potential.	One of my goals in education is to increase funding for early childhood education. Starting early with integrative experiences have long term payoffs and I look forward to working with Arts For Colorado in this area.
Jon Roberts	Representative	2	R	My undergraduate degree is in Architecture. I was involved in art and music all the way through High School Graduation. As a candidate, I do not support an increase in taxes as means for 'investment'. I value creative industries and will work to allow them to operate freely with unfettered access in the market. Investments can and should be made on the individual level, for which I have ideas to create easier and better access to doing so.	As mentioned above, creative curriculum was prevalent throughout my entire educational career from kindergarten through college graduation. I do believe that creative education is critical to a well rounded, thoughtful and engaging citizen. Without raising taxes on the citizens of Colorado, I would support and promote creative education in our public schools.
Linda Shoemaker	Regent	2	D	The state of Colorado needs to invest more into creative industries and it should start with more investment into education -- both K-12 and higher education -- because arts are one of the first things that get cut when school budgets need to be trimmed. Colorado ranks in the middle of states in funding K-12, but it is at the very bottom in funding higher education.	I would start with increased funding for K-12 and higher education. I believe in local control for school districts and I believe that with increased funding, Colorado's school districts would add more creative and integrated learning experiences. I support advocacy for the arts and creative industries to help legislators and voters understand the importance of creative industries to the state's economy and quality of life. If elected as a Regent for the University of Colorado system, I will support vibrant arts education programs.
John Carson	Regent	6	R	As a University of Colorado Regent I will support courses, programs, and faculty in the arts, music and creative industries. These are an important part of a well rounded education. The state of Colorado should ensure a business and non-profit friendly regulatory environment. The arts and creative industries are an important part of the Colorado economy and are critical to enhancing quality of life.	I was President of the Board of Education for Colorado's third largest school district. In Douglas County one of our major initiatives was to implement 21st Century learning focused on creativity and critical thinking. I supported a wide range of art, music, theatre and other creative experiences for students and will continue to do so if I am elected CU Regent. These programs are a critical part of a well rounded education. Educational organizations should look for innovative ways to partner with non-profits and civic organizations dedicated to the arts and creative experiences, helping to ensure student access to these programs.
Lois Court	Representative	6	D	Most of these types of efforts are managed through the Governor's Economic Development office. I'm sorry, but I can't remember details about all those types of bills, but I'm pretty sure at least one of them that we passed during the past session had something to do with "creative industries". We also appropriated \$5million to the film industry. I think these are both good ideas.	The legislature can't "ensure" this because we leave specific curriculum decisions to the local school boards. However, as we crawl back out of the hole that K-12 plunged into during, and following, the recession, I hope we can appropriate more funds that can be somewhat earmarked for arts education. As I said, what that looks like in each district is pretty much up to them.
Paul Rosenthal	Representative	9	D	Continue the investments we're doing now, especially SCFD and the funds through the State of Colorado, and build on that with additional funds if available from the general fund.	I support restoring money to public schools which was cut in the last recession. We especially need to boost our arts, music, and sports programs.
Charlie Plagainos	Representative	11	R	Tax breaks	Access to art, 1. Art history in the form of visual stimulus, Big bright books filled with short comments on form and structure. 2. Local community classes on art. 3. Contests for creative competition.

Michael Merrifield	Senate	11	D	The creative industries are a great driver of economic growth and prosperity in Colorado. Any increases in funding we can make would be a good investment. Tax credits and incentives to attract new and support established arts centered businesses would be good investments.	I sponsored legislation while a member of the Colorado House of Representatives to require a credit in the Arts before graduation. I would carry that again. I will also push to scale back the overwhelming amount of testing required and use the savings to protect Arts in the curriculum
Michael Hocevar	Representative	13	R	The state responsibility is for public goods. When the state has projects that incorporate the arts this will create the demand for those arts.	I believe this matter is best left to the local school boards, not legislatures at the State level.
Glenn Carlson	Representative	14	D	I believe the state should continue to allow creators to add their colors to our great state. Having a colorful, unique environment draws top talent to the region, enhances quality of life, and gives a community a sense of pride and character.	Unfortunately, increased testing has resulted in a reduction of arts and culture instruction. This trend needs to be reversed immediately. We need to embrace the creative side of humans, which yields more productive and unique parents, children, and employees.
Kit Roupe	Representative	17	R	Many of the arts are non-profits. It has come to my attention that there are a number of conflicting laws in the non-profit sector. I'd like to resolve these conflicts, allowing non-profits to operate more efficiently with the limited resources. We also underfund higher education. When I received my bachelors, the state paid 35% of the tuition. Today, I believe it is at 6%. Might as well be a private institution. Still, we start with education as a state investment. Other options I can think of require going to the ballot because of TABOR.	I think the arts are a great way to take abstract concepts and give them substance for children. I cavalierly think that we should have a special, advanced programs for arts; something like the IB program in high schools. I also like project based programs, although I recognize that not all students might thrive in that situation. I am on a charter school board that specializes in immersion languages. We have the youth symphony and the youth chorale in the school, and we exchange some of the space cost for actual classes. Why not expand on this with other schools?
Andy Kerr	Senate	22	D	I believe we need to invest in the arts, theater and other creative industries at all levels. From education to big productions to community art projects we can improve the economy and quality of life. That is why I am proud to have toured and supported arts districts in my community such as the 40 West Arts District in Lakewood.	As a teacher and parent of three I understand how important arts are to development, creative thinking and education. I believe it is vital that we invest in education and as part of that investment we must invest in the arts and integrated learning. As the Chair of the Senate Education Committee I will ensure that arts and music stay in our public schools.
Beth Martinez Humenik	Senate	24	R	I would propose having the creative industry group and all stakeholders work together at the table to discuss ideas and viable ways to advance the economic future of Colorado while allowing industry businesses to expand and grow so they can provide new jobs as well as work on finding long-term self-sustainable ways of how to enhance Colorado's quality of life.	I recognize that now and will continue to do so. As a substitute teacher in Charter schools I agree with and like that these Boards and Parents recognize the importance of creative learning and innovation in order for children to have a well-balanced education as well as the opportunity for new learning experiences. My parents were both educators in Art, Music and Library Science, so I understand the value of having this as a part of the school curriculum.
Judy Solano	Senate	24	D	All of the creative industries support a vibrant economy. Music, theater, film, dance, visual arts, etc. enhance our quality of life and create jobs. Wise state policies and financial commitment should continue.	Movement, art, and music are just as important as math, science and reading. A well-rounded curriculum should never be compromised. Creativity is essential to learning and innovation and I would work to ensure that the legislative policies reflect the importance of arts in public schools.

Diane Mitsch Bush	Representative	26	D	In FY 13-14 and 14-15 budgets, I strongly supported funding for creative industries, for film, and tax incentives for small business job creation. The creative industries are essential to our quality of life and critical for economic growth, especially in the mountain communities that I represent. Having a vibrant arts community attracts more entrepreneurs and location neutral businesses to our rural communities, and strengthens our community fabric. State funding for the arts is absolutely necessary: it helps local arts businesses and communities be sustainable and it builds small businesses. More fundamentally, funding creative industries is an investment in our heart and soul of our communities and in our children's future.	There is a wide variety of research showing that arts education is integral to the development of skills in math and science. This is especially so for music. Of course arts education makes for a well rounded, well grounded young citizen who is able to recognize the sheer joy in life while also understanding implications of history for our future. Public school Curriculum and direct spending decisions are locally controlled in Colorado, but the State can incentivize and facilitate arts education, especially for less affluent districts through direct funding and grant programs. Partnering with businesses and the non profit sector is key here. Integrated partnership programs that combine arts and environmental literacy are successful in stimulating children to see the natural world in all its splendor and wonder. At the same time, programs that combine the arts, social sciences, and math/ science(especially biology and physics) can open young people's eyes to the patterns and beauty of interconnections between people, land, water and the inspiration that the arts give to us. These programs cost money, but I see them as an essential investment for Colorado.
JoAnn Windholz	Representative	30	R	I do support Colorado's creative industries. I believe that the facilities should continually be maintained and where and when appropriate repair and replace existing public facilities. I would carefully review any budget expansion and approve those items that are a priority.	I think that all our children should have access to integrated learning and creative experiences and would encourage that there be time allowed for field trips and encourage volunteer artists be invited to share their talents with students in the classroom.
Carol J. Beckler	Representative	31	R	Opportunity to express talents, money for the programs to create those talents, and bring art programs back in the school system.	Money is important to put in to the schools for the arts, it has to be stipulated for that purpose, We have teachers that can run these programs if they are allowed,
Robert Bowen	Representative	38	D	We need to make sure the special arts districts attract creative businesses and help them prosper. We need to promote those businesses.	The legislature needs to fund arts in schools. They have been underfunded for decades and that must end. Arts are important for development of children and the quality of life in society.
Henry M. Barlow	Representative	43	D	I favor targeted investment in projects that serve citizens rural and economically deprived areas of the state.	We need to insure that students have an opportunity to study music, art, and drama and to learn performance skills as part of the basic curriculum
karen smith	Representative	44	D	I usher/greet at the Lone Tree Arts Theater. I am so thrilled to be living near so many cultural things. Denver does very well, can do more though.	I'm very strong for education and helping children be creative. I'm not very artistic, but my children fortunately are and I'm so amazed with people who are so talented. I encouraged my children and schools should as well. Thank you for what you do.

Dave Young	Representative	50	D	<p>I'm so pleased that Greeley's Creative Arts District has been certified by Colorado Creative Industries. Our creative arts district helps advance our local economy through events like Friday Fest, the Arts Picnic, Blues Jam, our Farmers' Market, the Independence Stampede Parade, the UNC/Greeley Jazz Festival, and Oktobrewfest. Recently, I enjoyed Chalk-a-lot, which was a very successful creative event that engaged hundreds in our community. See my Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/StateRepresentativeDaveYoung/posts/690212187731649 In the past few legislative sessions, we created and expanded a Film Incentives Tax Credit program to help draw more large-scale movie production to Colorado. Recently, it was announced that Quentin Tarantino would be filming his next movie in our great state, creating local jobs and increasing the circulation of funds through our state and local economy. I think this is a good program that is responsibly administered and has the potential to more-than pay for itself over a relatively short time. Programs like this which incentivize large-scale arts production should be created or expanded, but also closely monitored to ensure that taxpayers are getting a good return on their investment.</p>	<p>As a career educator, I know first hand that art, music, and classes that provide creative experiences are critical to the flexibility and growth of young minds. When I taught math, I often devised projects for students that helped show the connection between music, art and mathematics. I did this because the arts (music, drama, and painting in particular) were a crucial and important part of my school experience and have continued to be through my life. Demonstrating to students that math is relevant to their other interests certainly kept them engaged. I often talk about STEAM. STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is an important educational push for our state, but without the Arts we miss the emphasis on creativity so necessary to generate the innovation that feeds the Colorado entrepreneurial spirit. As others have said, the Arts put the STEAM in STEM.</p>
Jeni Arndt	Representative	53	D	<p>Coloradans are a creative, innovative group of people! I think we should continue to encourage innovation in creative industries across the state. Sometimes that means direct investment and sometimes that means being sure we stay out of the way and allow people to create and innovate.</p>	<p>As an educator, this has always been an emphasis--integrated learning and cross-discipline teaching. We help learners make meaning when we connect real world experiences to school learning. As a teacher and a principal, I insisted that the arts have equal time in the schedule. I also encouraged interdisciplinary units between the arts and math and science. From a state perspective, the way to ensure that public schools are providing creative and integrated experiences is by making sure we have included these in our standards.</p>
Tim Bessler	Representative	54	R	<p>City beautification projects are common in Fort Collins, with the donation of public pianos and decoration of electrical boxes, especially in our Old Town district. Art and culture make life worth living, and having cranked out a few tunes on those pianos, and having admired art in public spaces, I want to ensure that artists have the opportunity to create art where there's a home for it. I also see it as a good opportunity to create showcase events so that the community can select its favorite artists to create public works for them.</p>	<p>I still own and play the saxophone I first got in 5th grade (I even played shows with it in a rock band for the last several years), and I loved music class. Education funding is a high priority for me, and I want to ensure that in repaying the billion dollar "Negative Factor", that rural and low-income schools have the same access to arts and music programs as schools in high-income, higher-density suburban areas.</p>
Chris Kennedy	Representative	55	D	<p>More investment in early arts education (5-10th grades) and investment in outlets to give artists the opportunity to show their work</p>	<p>Restore funding for arts programs and attract new arts and sciences teachers into school district 51</p>

Millie Hamner	Representative	61	D	Artistic expression is an important part of any culture, and ours is no exception. I think the State of Colorado should approach investment in creative industries in the same manner it approaches investments in any other economic sector: analyze the impacts and legislate accordingly. However, I think that we face several obstacles as government officials that are not otherwise faced by other funding sources. People are concerned about the "heavy hand" of government dictating how one expresses themselves, and are (sometimes rightfully) concerned that ideological preferences expressed by legislators will influence one's receipt of funding, rather than the merits of one's work. If we are to make investments in art and culture, we should be careful with how we do so.	Colorado ranks just shy of the bottom of the fifty-state list in terms of education funding. When classroom and district budgets are cut, the first classes that go are the "nonessential" courses like art, music, and physical activity. It is unfortunate that today in Colorado, a child can only expect to receive quality instruction and development in those areas if he or she attends a private school or a public school in a wealthy neighborhood. Since I was first appointed to the legislature in 2010, I have been working to help reduce/eliminate the negative factor and restore school funding back to pre-recession levels. I think this is the best immediate solution we have to solving this problem. In the meantime, it seems the best we can do is to encourage parents to enroll their children in extracurricular artistic activities. It is unfortunate, but until we solve the funding crisis, any other solutions seem unlikely to gain momentum.
Betsy Markey	State Treasurer		D	Programs like Art in Public Places are important not just because they enrich our communities but because they create job and bolster our economy. I support this program and think that other community arts projects should be encouraged.	We need to make sure the our Colorado education system has the funding necessary to educate our children. This should include access to arts and music. Too often those are the first programs to be cut when budgets get tight. We need to get creative with our budget in order to ensure that education is funded.
Wayne W. Williams	SECRETARY OF STATE		R	Keeping Secretary of State filing fees low enables both businesses and nonprofits to use more of their money to benefit the economy and the creative industries. As the only candidate who has successfully managed a government office, I will be able to run the office efficiently so that filing fees can be kept low.	Ensuring fair elections is fundamental to confidence in our governments that provide our public schools. As the only candidate trusted by both Democrats and Republicans to run challenging elections, I will ensure fair elections with integrity.