

Cindy Johnson Bennett - HD50 (I)

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, Performance Art

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

* Film/Photography, Drawing/Painting/Sculpting, Digital Arts/Design, Collage

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?

* Currently, in the face of enormous state revenue deficits, I think community art development would work best as public/private endeavors. The state simply doesn't have the money for complete funding nor the legislative will for raising taxes. That said, media platforms use visual languages to influence our lives 24/7. People need to know how to decipher, decode, and become proficient in those languages to become independent thinkers that better contribute to their local communities and economies as individuals or businesses.

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?

* Art like sports is a confidence builder for students of all ages. When children are asked to make something they've never seen before, such as draw/paint a portrait, they're being asked to try something completely new, to take a chance. Just like a pole vaulter that's asked by their coach to push to jump newer heights, it's scary, unknown. So like sports, once the portrait is complete, the pole vault jumped the child/person feels confidence. They know they can try something new

and succeed and they like that. Art should remain in public schools as should sports as part of a quality comprehensive education that the Wyoming Constitution mandates.

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?

* In my city of Cody, the arts are a draw for tourism which contributes to the local economy. The Buffalo Bill Center of the West and By Western Hands just sponsored events outside in downtown Cody as well as an art walk. People saw art, bought art, and ate out. Covid-conscious events can be successful. Right now, state sponsored economic help will be quite difficult to secure because Wyoming is having severe revenue shortfalls. In more prosperous economic times I would definitely support specific funding for the arts. Art tells the extraordinary stories of our ordinary lives. We get to share in those stories at festivals, in theaters, galleries, studios, and classrooms. Art is essential.

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.

* Neither Unsupportive nor 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.

* Neither Unsupportive nor Supportive