

Peter Pierson
Arizona House of Representatives
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From the choices below, please identify the top five most pressing issues you believe the Arizona Legislature must deal with in the next session.

Stimulating Arizona's economy and creating more good quality jobs.

Increasing funding for K-12 schools.

Supporting the contributions that Arizona's creative sector makes to local economies and state tourism.

Tough to narrow these down to five, as they all seem to fit under the umbrella of creating the kinds of places people want to live, work, play, raise their families.

How would you describe the importance of arts and culture resources to the development of our state?

What role should the state play in investing in and assuring that nonprofit arts and culture experiences are available to all Arizonans?

Urban theorist Richard Florida, in his pivotal 'The Rise of the Creative' class, links the importance of 'quality of place' concerns that attract and keep talent, energy, and the creative entrepreneurial spirit.

Education is always #1 on the list of these attributes, with progressive infrastructure, housing, diversity, opportunities for engagements, a thriving distinct local arts community being among the others on the list. These are the things that help draw the people that create and draw top-shelf employment.

Would you support the gradual restoration of funding for the Arizona Commission on the Arts to prerecession levels?

General fund appropriations? Another funding stream? Any other ideas?

Yes. Just how...warrants an inclusive conversation and planning with and among the stakeholders to meet the needs of addressing complex funding issues.

How else could you as an elected official encourage the development of arts and culture resources and incorporate them into the development of our state and local economies?

My general platform is "Putting Our Communities First." Arts and culture have a big part in creating and maintaining dynamic, thriving communities, and dynamic, thriving economies. I intend to keep quality of place concerns, including arts and culture, in economic and community development planning.

Please select from the following statements which best reflects your philosophy about public support for arts, culture, and arts education in Arizona.

Public support for the nonprofit arts and culture sector is a necessary investment in our local economies, quality of life in our communities and educational experiences for our families and children.

<p>Please discuss what impact you believe arts and culture has on your local communities, e.g. individual artists, nonprofit performing arts, museums of various kinds, zoos or botanical gardens.</p>	<p>See above. They all have a part in that dynamic, thriving community. Cause and effect might be a bit vague, but the correlation is inescapable that creative communities, and communities that promote creativity, tend to be the more dynamic and thriving places to live, work, and play.</p>
<p>Please describe your personal participation and/or interest in arts and culture, e.g. professional or amateur visual or performing artist, a patron, board service, financial support, participation in your youth, favorite arts or culture institution, etc.).</p>	<p>Work history includes freelance writer (award-winning essay and radio essay), independent public broadcast experience, and am playing a role in networking and outreach in the emergent Prescott area arts and music community.</p>
<p>How would you insure that the benefits of a quality arts education available to every student in Arizona's K-12 schools?</p>	<p>We need to stop the drastic cuts in public education funding. That...is what got me in this campaign in the first place. Creativity, problem solving, entrepreneurship, are driven by early and continuous exposure to arts in the schools. Art is usually one of the first things to go with budget cuts. We need to reach responsible and fair revenue structures the ensure adequate funding for AZ schools.</p>
<p>Would you support the inclusion of arts education in education reform measures that identify curricula, funding formulas or incentives designed to improve education outcomes for our students.</p>	<p>Yes...but, again, this is a generally complex issue area, that of curriculum standards and measurements, that needs to be addressed with an open, inclusive discussion among all the stakeholders.</p>

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