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2026 COLORADO GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

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Compiled by Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA)

Colorado Business Committee for the Arts (CBCA) is a 41-year-old 501(c)3 nonprofit organization headquartered in Denver, Colo., with the mission to advance Colorado's creative economy by connecting business and the arts. In addition to serving as Colorado's state arts advocacy entity, CBCA also fulfills its mission through research, leadership development, training and arts engagement programs.

In July 2026, CBCA and members of its Policy Committee crafted a questionnaire for all the candidates running for Governor of Colorado in the November 2026 election. Candidates were given several weeks to respond to the request.

Responses to the questionnaire from each candidate are enclosed here. They are provided in the order they were received and without any editing. Phil Weiser opted to submit a letter.

As a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, CBCA cannot endorse any candidate.

CANDIDATE: GREG LOPEZ

76% of Americans believe the arts are personally important to them. Do you or an immediate family member have experience in the arts? (Check all that apply.)

Film & Media Arts

Please elaborate on your background or experience in the arts.

My daughter works for STARZ entertainment. She works on digital animation and visual effects projects.

What arts activities in Colorado have you participated in or attended over the last two years? (Check all that apply.)

Music

Folk & Traditional Arts

Cultural Events & Festivals

Please elaborate on your recent arts participation or attendance.

I attend numerous concerts in the parks, cinco de mayo, SABOR, Juneteenth, Denver Chalk Art Festival and the Pride Parade just to name a few.

What role do you believe arts, culture and creativity have in Colorado's civic society and overall quality of life?

The arts are known to bringing together communities in a very positive manner and allow everyone to enjoy and appreciate the talent of artists. I truly believe that the arts helps improve the quality of life of those who chose to participate or attend events. The main concern I have is that the poor and often times the lower middle class are priced out of attending inspirational art performances and will never experience the thrill and excitement of performing arts activities.

The creative industries account for \$19.7 billion or 3.7% of Colorado's economy, encompassing over 121,000 jobs. There are 37 state-certified Creative Districts across Colorado, which elevate the arts for economic development, job growth, cultural heritage, community vitality and civic engagement in urban and rural areas. What policies would you prioritize to support economic vitality, small businesses, nonprofits, and individual workers across and through Colorado's arts, culture and creative industries?

With the financial crisis Colorado faces in the coming years, it would be unwise for me to offer any new policies that would require any additional funds at this time. I would however, personally invite film executives to Colorado to negotiate a mutually beneficial partnership with film and television production executives to enhance the number of projects. I would rollback all regulations that are preventing small businesses in the creative industry space to be successful. I would encourage public-private art projects in the rural communities. My

administration would ensure that we do all that is necessary to ensure that the creative industry survives and thrives here in Colorado.

What policies will you prioritize that strengthen student outcomes and creative learning in K-12 public schools, including participation in and access to arts education (dance, music, theatre, visual arts, media arts), and/or interdisciplinary approaches such as STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math)?

Again with the bleak revenue forecast heading into FY 2027 - 2028 as it pertains to school funding and the need to ensure that all children can read and write at the appropriate grade school level, it would be difficult for me to offer any new policies pertaining to the curriculum of the schools. I would definitely maintain all existing policies that are positively strengthening student outcome. It is important that all students participate in some form of arts program and education.

What policies would you prioritize to address the cost of living and accessibility of housing across Colorado, including urban, rural and mountain regions, especially for freelancers, gig workers and nonprofit professionals, such as artists, performers, and others in the cultural sector?

The cost of living and accessibility of affordable housing is a crisis that is impacting every community across Colorado. Government overreach into the lives of small businesses, homeowners and every day hard working individuals is causing the housing crisis we are currently in. Making life easier for everyone is a top priority of my administration. My governing principles are simple: People Over Politics, Do No Harm and Do What Works. To that end, I will be working with the legislature to allow all renters to deduct their annual cost in rent to be deducted from their state income taxes. While this will not resolve all the issues concerning the cost of living and accessibility to affordable housing, it will put more money back into the pockets of the individuals mentioned in the question. We must address this crisis with a steady hand and with visionary glasses not statements that merely sound good.

What policies would you prioritize to advance technology, innovation, and responsible use of artificial intelligence in Colorado, and what impact might that have on Colorado's creative industries?

As a former member of Congress, I sat on the Space, Science and Technology Committee. AI is a tool that needs to be evaluated carefully as it is impacting a number of jobs in negative manner. The "genie" has been let out of the bottle and it is requiring enormous amount of electricity and water to operate. I will be working with the legislature to develop good long term legislation that would advance technology and innovation.

CANDIDATE: VICTOR MARX

76% of Americans believe the arts are personally important to them. Do you or an immediate family member have experience in the arts? (Check all that apply.)

Literary Arts

Film & Media Arts

Please elaborate on your background or experience in the arts.

I have spent much of my career using storytelling to communicate difficult subjects involving trauma, veterans, families, and humanitarian work. I am an author and have produced and participated in documentary film projects, including The Victor Marx Story, Triggered, Triggered Too, and The Unseen War. My wife, Eileen, has also written books and participated extensively in media and storytelling through our humanitarian work.

What arts activities in Colorado have you participated in or attended over the last two years? (Check all that apply.)

Film & Media Arts

Cultural Events & Festivals

Please elaborate on your recent arts participation or attendance.

Film, media, writing, and storytelling continue to be part of my professional and humanitarian work. I have also participated in Colorado events that bring together film, music, speakers, and community, including the Last Stand Festival in Englewood. I value opportunities where creative work brings people together around shared experiences and ideas.

What role do you believe arts, culture and creativity have in Colorado's civic society and overall quality of life?

Arts and culture help communities tell their stories, preserve their heritage, challenge people to think, and bring people together across differences. They also contribute directly to Colorado's economy, tourism, education, and the vitality of both rural and urban communities.

I also believe strongly in freedom of expression. Government's role should be to create an environment where creativity can flourish - not determine which ideas or viewpoints are worthy of expression.

The creative industries account for \$19.7 billion or 3.7% of Colorado's economy, encompassing over 121,000 jobs. There are 37 state-certified Creative Districts across Colorado, which elevate the arts for economic development, job growth, cultural heritage, community vitality and civic engagement in urban and rural areas. What policies would

you prioritize to support economic vitality, small businesses, nonprofits, and individual workers across and through Colorado's arts, culture and creative industries?

Colorado's creative economy should benefit from the same fundamentals that help every small business and entrepreneur succeed: affordable housing and energy, reasonable taxes, predictable regulation, access to capital, and less unnecessary bureaucracy.

I would focus on lowering the cost of doing business, simplifying permitting and licensing, protecting independent and freelance work, and supporting locally driven economic development. Where government provides grants or incentives, those programs should be transparent, competitively awarded, and measured by results rather than political relationships.

Colorado's creative districts can also play an important role in strengthening downtowns, tourism, small businesses, and rural communities, and I support locally driven partnerships that demonstrate measurable economic and community benefit.

What policies will you prioritize that strengthen student outcomes and creative learning in K-12 public schools, including participation in and access to arts education (dance, music, theatre, visual arts, media arts), and/or interdisciplinary approaches such as STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math)?

I believe students benefit from a well-rounded education that includes opportunities in music, visual arts, theatre, media, technical education, and other creative disciplines.

My priorities would be strong academic fundamentals, parental involvement, local control, school choice, and giving schools flexibility to build programs that meet the needs and interests of their students. I also support partnerships between schools, local arts organizations, businesses, and career programs that expose students to real-world opportunities in design, media, technology, film, and other creative fields.

STEAM programs can be especially valuable when they combine creativity with the technical skills Colorado's future workforce will need.

What policies would you prioritize to address the cost of living and accessibility of housing across Colorado, including urban, rural and mountain regions, especially for freelancers, gig workers and nonprofit professionals, such as artists, performers, and others in the cultural sector?

The best way to help artists, freelancers, nonprofit employees, teachers, young families, and other working Coloradans is to address the underlying cost of living rather than create a separate housing system for every profession.

I would seek immediate limits on excessive property-tax growth, reduce unnecessary permitting delays and government-imposed housing costs, encourage additional housing supply, and give communities greater flexibility to address local housing needs.

Mountain towns, rural communities, and the Front Range face different challenges, so Colorado should avoid one-size-fits-all mandates from Denver. The objective should be straightforward: make it easier and less expensive to build, rent, own, and remain in Colorado.

What policies would you prioritize to advance technology, innovation, and responsible use of artificial intelligence in Colorado, and what impact might that have on Colorado's creative industries?

Colorado should be a place where responsible technological innovation can grow rather than being driven elsewhere by unnecessary or unpredictable regulation.

At the same time, artificial intelligence raises legitimate issues involving privacy, intellectual property, transparency, fraud, and accountability. When government uses AI to make consequential decisions affecting citizens, there should be transparency, appropriate human oversight, protection of personal information, and clear accountability for the result.

For Colorado's creative industries, AI can be an extraordinary tool, but technology should complement human creativity rather than erase the rights of creators. Colorado should protect intellectual property and encourage workforce education so artists, filmmakers, designers, writers, and other creative professionals can use emerging technology rather than simply be displaced by it.

The goal should be to welcome innovation while protecting individual rights and keeping human beings accountable for consequential decisions.

CANDIDATE: PHIL WEISER

See enclosed letter.



Colorado Business Committee for the Arts
1325 S. Colorado Blvd, Ste 605
Denver, CO 80222

August 28, 2026

Dear Colorado Business Committee for the Arts:

I am writing to respectfully ask for Colorado Business Committee for the Arts' (CBCA) consideration and the broader creative community to support my campaign to serve as Colorado's next governor.

Throughout my career, I have taken on tough challenges, brought people together, and delivered results for Coloradans. As Attorney General, I have defended our rights and freedoms, protected critical funding for our state, held irresponsible corporations accountable, confronted the opioid crisis, and stood up to this lawless, bullying federal administration. I have never been afraid to take on anyone who would harm the people of Colorado.

For more than 40 years, the CBCA has brought together business leaders, artists, and cultural organizations around a shared belief: the arts make Colorado stronger. Through its advocacy, research, training, and engagement programs, CBCA has helped establish the creative sector as an important part of Colorado's economy and quality of life.

I believe supporting the arts is both a cultural and economic priority. Colorado's artists and creative organizations create jobs, bring people together, support local businesses, and give our communities their distinct character. They help make Colorado a place where people want to live, build businesses, visit, and raise their families.

As governor, I will work with CBCA and leaders across the creative community to protect public investment in the arts and build stronger partnerships among state government, businesses, schools, philanthropy, and cultural organizations. We will also ensure that artists and creative businesses have a seat at the table when the state makes decisions about tourism, workforce development, downtown revitalization, and economic development.

Supporting Colorado's creative economy means addressing housing costs, increasing employment opportunities, and the expanding access for all Coloradans to create and perform. That support must extend across the entire state, including rural communities and areas where access to arts education, programming, and funding remains limited.

I will bring to the Governor's Office the same approach I brought to the Attorney General's Office: showing up, listening carefully, and delivering results. I know well how Colorado's government works, and I have demonstrated that I can lead it effectively. Above all, I will remain guided by a simple mission—to fight for the people of Colorado.



Our democracy is not a spectator sport; it is a team sport. At this consequential moment, I would be honored to have CBCA on our team and to earn the support of the art and business community across Colorado.

Thank you for your consideration and for the work you do on behalf of Colorado.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Phil J. Weiser'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Phil' and last name 'Weiser' clearly legible, and a middle initial 'J.' in between.

Phil Weiser
Democratic Nominee for Governor of Colorado