

Create Boulder Statement for the 2026 Arts & Culture Arts Blueprint

Create Boulder is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit powered by leaders who believe creativity is essential to a vibrant, inclusive and resilient city.

Since 2020, we've worked to strengthen Boulder's arts ecosystem by addressing gaps in funding and infrastructure and by mobilizing the arts community to advocate for and drive meaningful change.

During the COVID-19 crisis, Create Boulder partnered with the City's Office of Arts and Culture to deliver early relief funding and protect cultural grants. In 2023, we initiated and led the successful campaign for the Arts, Culture & Heritage Tax which passed with 75% voter approval and is expected to generate \$3.5 million annually for Boulder's arts and culture ecosystem.

As the city develops the 2026 Boulder Arts Blueprint, we encourage city leaders and the community to think boldly, holistically and with a long-term vision. The Arts Blueprint should:

- Align spending of the Arts, Culture & Heritage Tax dedicated tax revenues with voter intent: Expand support for arts and culture organizations, artists, education, multicultural programs, venues and public art. The city's General Fund should pay for overhead and Office of Arts and Culture expenses.
- Prioritize increased support for nonprofit arts and culture organizations, a clear community priority according to city survey data.
- Leverage other city resources, including the Community, Culture, Resilience & Safety (CCRS) Tax, for arts infrastructure investments.
- Address space affordability through targeted investments, subsidized rents and adaptive reuse of city-owned properties.
- Integrate the arts into major city initiatives, including the Civic Area redevelopment.
- Recognize arts and culture as core civic and economic assets—vital to equity, innovation, public health, education, talent retention and community vitality.

The Arts, Culture & Heritage Tax was a major step forward, but it cannot fund all of Boulder's arts and culture needs. Increased public and private investment—along with sustained city leadership—will be essential.

The Arts Blueprint is a rare opportunity for Boulder to lead with ambition and vision. Now is the time to make strategic, transformative investments that define our future as a welcoming, creative community—strongly supported and proudly championed by the city.