Creative Economic, Workforce, and Civic Investment is the way forward for Wisconsin

Legislative Agenda | April 2026

Create Wisconsin is advocating for these critical issues in 2026-2027:

- ***Invest in Wisconsin's creative assets to benefit all Wisconsinites, by increasing funding for grants awarded on a competitive basis by the Wisconsin Arts Board.*** We call for a substantial increase in investment - ideally, to at least to $1 per capita - in the Wisconsin Arts Board, the state agency dedicated to the arts. The Wisconsin Arts Board currently stands at $.20 per capita, ranking us 48th out of 50 states in per capita funding of the state arts agency.

  An increased investment will support programming and operations of organizations, individuals, and companies whose programs, products and services help make arts and cultural opportunities available and accessible to the people of Wisconsin. This kind of investment adds to community vitality and appeal to residents and visitors alike. Advocacy is proceeding with legislators and candidates as important elections approach in November 2026 and the FY2027-2029 state budget process gets underway in early 2027.

- ***Rural Creative Economy Development Program:*** we call for legislation to provide much needed state support to economic development and promotional organizations and local government agencies for the purpose of cultural planning and creative economic development programs. Eligible projects will serve the rural creative economy and creative industries through job and business creation and capacity-building, workforce training and development, community and sector planning, development and engagement, and products or services with artistic, cultural, creative, or aesthetic qualities. Sen. Romaine Quinn (R-Birchwood) and Rep. Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville) are champions of legislation to establish this program in the near future.

Create Wisconsin is Wisconsin's community cultural advocacy, development, and service organization:

- working for a Wisconsin where creativity thrives as a driving force of the economy, workforce, and community life
- advocating for arts and cultural, community, and economic opportunities for everyone, everywhere in the state
- serving and strengthening Wisconsin's creative economy, workforce and communities.|

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