

Deborah Malden: Election: 2A secures funding to strengthen arts and culture ecosystem

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I'd like to correct misinformation in former City Council member Mary Young's guest opinion on the 2A ballot measure. One, allocating General Funds to the arts will not negatively impact essential City services. Aaron Brockett, Councilmember Bob Yates, and City budget staff, and the vast majority of City Council approved the 2A sharing of tax revenues.

The Library District, approved by voters last year, removes \$10 million in library services expenses from the General Fund, bolstering the City's finances and financial flexibility by \$10 million, more than offsetting 2A's projected \$3.75 million for arts and culture. Plus, the City's just-released [Arts & Economic Prosperity 6](#) study shows that our nonprofit arts and culture sector annually generates over \$115 million to Boulder's economy and substantial City sales tax revenue. Arts funding from 2A represents less than 1% of the total City budget and will produce an outsized return on investment for City finances.

To correct another point, the current 15-year Community, Culture, Resilience, and Safety ("CCRS") Tax, does NOT provide dedicated arts funding. The original 2014 tax was passed by voters with strong support from Boulder's arts groups since it allocated 30% to the arts for facility-related investments. But when the tax was first extended in 2017, only 10% went to the arts, and the 15-year extension passed in 2021 provides no dedicated arts funding — zero. Instead, it allocates 10% to all community nonprofits, and 90% to the City.

The CCRS Tax illustrates the City's historically inconsistent support for the arts. Voting "yes" on 2A secures the stability of both City services and funding to strengthen the arts and culture ecosystem, a proven high-yield investment for Boulder's social, educational and economic growth.

Deborah Malden, Yes on 2A campaign chair, Boulder
