

2022 Create the Vote Candidate Survey

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts on Arts and Culture in advance of the 2022 election. We'll post your responses on our website so that voters can make informed decisions about who will best represent the Arts and Culture community at the legislature.

We ask that you complete the survey by Friday, September 23rd. **We know your time is limited so we understand that your responses will be brief.**

Don't miss out on this important opportunity to be an Arts champion!

Email *

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Please share your name

Kathy Kennedy

What office and district are you a candidate for?

State Representative

Every town in Connecticut can boast cultural assets that contribute to a vibrant community and improve the quality of life for its residents.

What are some exciting arts and cultural events and organizations that you have experienced in your community?

We have the Milford Arts Council, fondly called the "MAC." They just celebrated 50 years in Milford, with two venues, at the railroad station and the Firehouse Gallery. I have been to shows, musical events and numerous art shows. We also have Walnut Beach Arts.

If elected, will you work to strengthen the arts and culture community in the town(s) you serve? If so, how? If not, why?

Absolutely. I keep the MAC apprised of any and all grant opportunities.

Sandwiched between Boston and New York, Connecticut is often dismissed as a "pass through" state when it comes to tourism. Yet, our state has many world class arts institutions and a rich cultural landscape.

Why do you think arts and culture are important in Connecticut? What is unique about our state's arts and culture?

Connecticut offers just about anything you could see in NYC. Many locations are so quaint. You have the Ridgefield Playhouse, Waterbury Palace, the Bushnell and more. Most are accessible by train.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, many people discovered that arts and creativity play a critical role in helping us cope with emotional stress and sustain our mental health. Art helped us process loss, fight loneliness, stay connected and feel hopeful.

Can you share a way that the arts have helped you, your family or your community get through the difficult times of Covid? How will that experience influence choices about the arts you would make as a legislator?

I don't think we could have endured the pandemic without the arts we have. The arts provided a calming, smoothing affect for so many. I recently became involved with the Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation, a nonprofit group. If I am re-elected i will do all I can to promote the arts.

The arts and creativity have a proven track record of economic benefit to our state. The National Endowment for the Arts' Office of Research & Analysis and the Bureau of Economic Analysis report that, in 2020, arts and cultural production in Connecticut added \$8.9 billion to our economy and accounted for 3.2 percent of our gross state product, while the arts and cultural industries employed 49,159 workers with wages and benefits totaling more than \$5.1 billion. (https://nasaa-arts.org/nasaa_research/creative-economy-state-profiles/)

Despite these contributions, the arts have historically been first on the chopping block when it comes to budget priorities. What would you do to help keep arts and creativity funded in our state at a level that recognizes their economic importance?

I think it is important to recognize the overall well being the arts provide to each and everyone of us. There has been so talk about the mental health of children, adults too. I the Town of Orange we have Art People. I attended there opening and was blown away. Their mission is to give people the opportunity to heal, grow, explore and be witnessed through the power of art. We must do all we can to financially support the arts.

Connecticut has not had an Arts Education Specialist at the State Department of Education (SDE) since 2016, when the last specialist left. This position is critical to assuring that our State and National Arts Education Standards are consistently implemented in all of Connecticut's school districts, especially those in under-resourced communities where students' access to the Arts is often extremely limited compared to affluent communities.

If elected, would you support refilling the Arts Education Specialist at SDE? If not, why?

Yes I would. As I have become more interested in the arts and the value to everyone of us, this is the most valuable position that must be filled.

This form was created inside of ctartsalliance.org.

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