

CREATE THE OTE 2024

with CT ARTS ALLIANCE

2024 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE ARTS SURVEY

You Name: Alexis Harrison

What office and district are you a candidate for?

Office: House District: 132

1. Do you have a connection to the arts? If so, please share.

Yes, I am a long-time lover and patron of the arts that stems decades. My aunt, Patricia Hemingway, was hired by Hal Prince to play Eva Peron in the Broadway show in the 1980s. She played the starring role on Sunday matinees and was an aristocrat during the other evening performances. My aunt's involvement in the theatre made me a life-long lover of musical theatre and the arts. She was also a co-founder of the Downtown Cabaret Theater. As a youngster, I participated in local theatre camps and the esteemed Fairfield Teen Theater. As an adult, I am a frequent attendee at shows at the Westport Playhouse and the Downtown Cabaret Theater. My community of Fairfield has a rich arts community as well and I love attending shows at the Sacred Heart Community Theatre, and the FTC. The arts are a critical part of making our State a draw to people, it's vital to our economy and it makes us have a better understanding of history, periods of time and historical figures.

2. Can you share an arts experience that has impacted your life or the lives of your family members?

My parents always played Broadway theater as we were growing up -- whether we were making dinner or doing household chores, my mom made sure we were listening to music. It was a wonderful shared experience of singing together and having fun. Those special moments have stuck with me as an adult, and I do the same today.

3. The Connecticut legislature hosts the Arts, Culture, and Tourism Caucus, a bipartisan group of legislators who champion state support for the arts community

If elected (or re-elected), will you join (or rejoin) the Caucus?

I would be honored to be part of this caucus and to be an official champion for the arts in Connecticut.

- 4. Studies have shown that arts and culture can deliver a 3 to 1 return on investment at a minimum if adequately funded. Despite this, Connecticut has historically under invested state funds in the arts and lags the rest of the nation in recognizing that arts generate tax revenue and support a thriving economy.**

If elected (or re-elected), will you support increased investment of state funds in arts and culture?

Yes, 100 percent. I believe that a society without the arts or music is not a good one. Human beings love expressive theatre, music, art work, dance and much more. It brings us together in an ever-divisive world. It educates, inspires, broadens our world view, and encourages self-expression.

- 5. Are there any other ways that you'd like to convey to voters how you have been supportive of the arts?**