

# CREATE THE OTE 2024

with CT ARTS ALLIANCE

## 2024 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE ARTS SURVEY

**You Name:** Ann Bonney

**What office and district are you a candidate for?**

Office: House                      District:        53

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

YES! I am a member of Arts Center East in Vernon and the Tolland Arts Center. I am also a volunteer for the David Hayes Sculpture Fields. I usually do a lecture/Power Point once a year on the history of the Fields, the life of the artists, a comparison of his work with those he said influenced him, where his sculptures, jewelry, pottery, etc. are on display, and a little local history. Most recently I gave the program this spring at Tolland Public Library followed by a tour of the Fields with the Artist's son, also David Hayes. I enjoy taking friends and relatives to art museums and meeting artists at open studios and art openings.

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

This past holiday season, I gave my grandson and his girlfriend a trip to and lunch at the Wadsworth Atheneum and a \$25 gift certificate to the museum gift shop. They had never been there before. I asked if they had not gone with a school field trip and he said that they never went on field trips. Needless to say, we had a wonderful time. When elected, I will restore enough money to education budgets to insure that all children in Connecticut get to experience some of the culture and history of Connecticut as part of their well rounded public school educations.

**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 treasure being part of this Caucus! Yes!

- 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?***

Absolutely!

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

In my last position as Director of Credit-Free Programs at Manchester Community College, we offered approximately 100 art related courses every quarter including voice and various musical instrument lessons, jewelry making, pottery, painting with various mediums and styles, history of art classes, artist talks. We also hosted an Organization of Active Adults that at it's peak had 2000 members and hosts musical performers in the College auditorium and takes trips in the US and abroad that include visits to art museums and venues.