

# CREATE THE OTE 2024

with CT ARTS ALLIANCE

## 2024 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE ARTS SURVEY

**You Name:** Brian Motola

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

Office: House                      District:        56

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

Yes, I supported the formation of the Vernon Arts Center at the time it was proposed. It is now the Arts Center East, ACE. Since its formation I have been a member, contributor and a patron. Also, I am a member of the Sons of Union Veterans who run the New England Civil War Museum in Vernon. And I am a past president and board member for Strong Family Farm in Vernon, a non-profit keeping part of Vernon's town heritage alive while preserving a working farm for future generations.

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

The most recent was the taking of a class that Arts Center East held on paper twilling. I brought my grand daughter and we had a wonderful time. Also, we attended one of those painting classes where you all paint the same picture under instructions. My granddaughter is artistic and has had a drawing displayed there through the school program. We love to go the the shows and support the ACE and the artists. The arts and ACE has brought me closer to my granddaughter. We share the events and the place.

**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 say I would join and hopefully participate in bringing more attention to the Arts in CT and in Vernon, my home district.

- 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?***

I don't know what the dollar investment is by the taxpayers of this state. I would say that very few Arts associations are self supporting, so I understand the need for taxpayers to underwrite some of the costs. Also, I understand the need for a robust Arts community in CT. and what it contributes to tourism wise in this state, and as you expressed in the question, the income it brings to businesses and the state.

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

Just the knowledge that I have supported the ARTs in CT and Vernon in many ways. being a member of ACE, the New England Civil War Museum, The Strong Family Farm, visiting museums in CT, and enjoying shows at the various performing centers in the state.