

CREATE THE OTE 2024

with CT ARTS ALLIANCE

2024 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE ARTS SURVEY

You Name: Colette Kabasakalian

What office and district are you a candidate for?

Office: House District: 111

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

Yes I do!! I am a member of the Ridgefield Guild of Artists and have taken classes in painting a few years ago. I fully support all of our Arts in town. Ridgefield was designated the first Cultural District in Connecticut and I am very proud of the fact that my predecessor, John Frey was integral in getting this designation for our town.

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

Painting Plein Aire at our National Park, Weir Farm. Sitting in nature painting nature is one of my favorite things to do when I need to be with my thoughts.

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?

YES!!! Most definitely!

- 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. Since the pandemic, more culturally aware individuals are moving from NYC to Connecticut and they are so excited and surprised that we already have so many wonderful venues, especially in Ridgefield

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

I was the host for The Art Walk this year in my office. We had two artists showing their paintings which are still up on our walls for another month. Our office is a satellite gallery where we showcase local artists rotating them quarterly. We can not be well rounded people without the arts in our lives.