

# CREATE THE OTE 2024

with CT ARTS ALLIANCE

## 2024 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE ARTS SURVEY

**You Name:** Merry C. Garrett

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

Office: Senate                      District: 35

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

I'm a very part time paid actress. Plus, I volunteer for the Hicks Stearns Museum and dress partly as of the period. I am a regular patron of Hartford Stage and The Bushnell.

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

When I first heard Mahalia Jackson sing. My Grandmother added the album to the record player carefully as to not to scratch the round treasure and I never looked back. So beautiful, full and inspirational.

**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, I will.

- 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, ALWAYS! There is a reason art goes back to the beginning of man as far as researchers can estimate... it serves many purpose, mental, physical, progress, opening up different areas of the mind and soul.

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

In addition to music, theater and the like... I am a mixed media artist. The arts made me the person I am today. I look for art in nature to recycling and reclaiming. Sight, sound, touch... it is all beautiful! I used to have a few favorite artist Prince, Mahalia Jackson, Frida Carlo and Salvador Dali and others. I stopped limiting myself to favorites decades ago.