

CREATE THE OTE 2024

with CT ARTS ALLIANCE

2024 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE ARTS SURVEY

You Name: Michelle Coelho

What office and district are you a candidate for?

Office: Senate District: 24

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

I have been in design management for the past thirty years. My maternal grandfather was a political cartoonist.

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

My maternal grandfather was a political cartoonist that had to escape Cuba because of his work. He made his way to Miami and was able to continue his work, calling out the Cuban government and the atrocities they were committing. The arts can be a way for political protest even in the hardest of times.

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, when elected, I would be proud to serve the Arts, Culture and Tourism Caucus. This will allow me to better advocate for the arts and tourism in western 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. Too often funds for the arts are the first cut. However, the arts can be a way for people to express themselves when they have no other way. Cutting or eliminating these funds hurts our society.

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

Not at this time.