

# CREATE THE OTE 2024

with CT ARTS ALLIANCE

## 2024 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE ARTS SURVEY

**You Name:** Nick Menapace

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

Office: House                      District: 37

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

Yes, through my work as a social studies teacher. In my classroom, I often incorporate various art forms—such as music, visual arts, and literature—to help students better understand and engage with historical events and cultural movements. I believe that the arts are a vital part of education and personal development, providing a unique lens through which we can explore and appreciate our shared human experience. This engagement with the arts not only enhances understanding but also empowers and enlightens individuals. Additionally, I support local arts initiatives and value their role in enriching our communities.

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

I've been involved in the arts throughout my life, from acting in several school plays to enjoying frequent visits to museums and local concerts. These experiences have deepened my appreciation for the arts and their role in enriching our lives and communities.

**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?***

If elected, I would be interested in joining the Arts, Culture, and Tourism Caucus. I support the arts community, as it is vital in enriching our culture, boosting tourism, and strengthening our economy. Being part of this caucus would allow me to advocate for

continued investment in the arts and help ensure that these creative sectors thrive in 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?***

I am a firm advocate for increased investment of state funds in arts and culture. The data clearly shows that the arts are vital to our cultural identity and a significant driver of economic activity, job creation, and state tax revenue. By investing in the arts, we can strengthen our economy, support local jobs, and enhance the quality of life for all residents of Connecticut. This is a sound investment with tangible benefits for our state.

- 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 my lifelong participation in arts events and advocacy for increased state investment in arts and culture, I have consistently supported arts education and local arts initiatives within the community. Whether attending local performances, supporting school arts programs, or promoting public art projects, a vibrant arts community is essential for fostering creativity, cultural understanding, and economic growth in our state.