

# CREATE THE OTE 2024

with CT ARTS ALLIANCE

## 2024 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE ARTS SURVEY

**You Name:** Rob Sampson

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

Office: Senate                      District: 16

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

Nothing direct, though I am a musician - playing the guitar since high school.

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

A major blessing in life is witnessing the talent of others. Who doesn't like a great show! I am a frequent visitor to our museums, theatre put on by YRT at Yale and visit NYC for plays and concerts regularly.

**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?***

Possibly, it would depend on the mission statement and the mission statement they adopt for the upcoming session.

**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?***

To be honest, I would need to know the specifics. I am a small-government conservative

so I am focused on shrinking government spending. However, a budget is about priorities and the arts certainly rates higher than quite a number of other items we are spending money on.

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

I encourage my friends to enjoy the arts and I have found myself very often trying to create a bridge between conservatives who are interested and some more progressive minded folks who are involved. I would strongly suggest limiting the overt advocacy of hot button controversial issues, particularly those that have little to do with the arts. We should strive to have an open door policy and recognize the wide range of ideologies and cultural values of people that have an interest.