

CREATE THE OTE 2024

with CT ARTS ALLIANCE

2024 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE ARTS SURVEY

You Name: Susan Johnson

What office and district are you a candidate for?

Office: House District: 49

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

I represent the 49th House District which has an Arts and Entertainment District in our Downtown Area.

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

My Great Aunt was a well known poet and my father introduced me to poetry when I was a very young child. I helped create the Julia de Burgos Poetry Park when I was on the Windham Board of Selectmen now called the Windham Town Council. This was the only time I was included in a New York Times Article in September 2001.

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.

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 particularly in our university and college systems as well as through our local boards of education.

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

Working with your organization to let people know how the arts teach us history.