

# CREATE THE OTE 2024

with CT ARTS ALLIANCE

## 2024 LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATE ARTS SURVEY

**You Name:** Eilish Collins Main

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

Office: House                      District: 146

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

In my free time, I volunteer at the Stamford Police Activities League (PAL) ART program with young residents. Part of the time there, I help inspire their creativity. It is always exciting to see what they come up with each time.

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

Being able to connect with the youth participants in the PAL ART program impacts me each time. Seeing their creativity on display and how they overcome any personal obstacles their families face to embrace their artistic expression and let it flourish for everyone to see. Additionally, Stamford has an Arts & Culture Commission that plays an important role in the city's prosperous cultural community, and all that it means to our residents and visitors. As a first gen Irish American born in Stamford, my Dad embraced the arts. He prioritized bringing the beauty of Irish culture to Stamford through running programs for Irish dance and music for children, and sponsoring events of the top Irish bands and singers, through the Stamford Hibernians, to perform here. I played violin and participated in local and state orchestras as a child. As a mom, I raised 2 daughters who did Irish dance, and performed at events throughout our city.

### 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, this is definitely something that I would consider participating in each 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?***

Yes, that would be a priority for me. Our district has a thriving arts scene and I want to ensure that it continues for future generations.

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

Stamford has a vibrant arts community and it would be an honor to champion their important work and everything that they mean to our city.