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2014 Washtenaw County Candidates Survey Response

Published verbatim and unedited

Office Candidate Seeks: US House of Representatives
District/Ward: MI-12

Candidate's Full Name: Debbie Dingell
Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Candidate's E-mail Address: d2@debbiedingell.com

Campaign Website: www.debbiedingellforcongress.com

Campaign Contact: Travis Gonyou, 734.620.4992, tgonyou@gmail.com , PO Box 746, Dearborn, MI 48121

1. In regards to arts, culture and heritage, do you consider yourself any of the following:

I believe that availability and access to arts, cultural and heritage offerings in our community make our community a great place to create, live, work, play, learn and visit.

I am a consumer of arts, culture and/or heritage products and programs.

I am personally a donor to arts, cultural and/or heritage organizations.

I am an artist or creative, either professionally or as an amateur.

2. What arts, cultural or heritage activities have you and/or your family members attended, participated in or supported in the past year?

Supporting the arts in one's community is contributing to the quality of life and something I have spent my career doing. At the very grassroots level, we are very active in many local arts organizations. We are active in Dearborn, our hometown, in the local symphony, arts organizations, and have taken leadership positions in both.

At the national level, while I was at GM and currently, I support the Congressional Arts Competition and Arts Caucus. I continue to be a mentor for this program each year and my spouse has sponsored a competition each year in the district. I am on the National Women's Museum Board and I have been almost since its beginning. I am also on the national advisory board and have been a mentor as well as a sponsor for the Creative Coalition almost from its inception. Support of the Smithsonian has also been one of my passions and I led GM's sponsorship of the Transportation Hall at the American History Museum and remain very engaged in support and advocacy for the Smithsonian. I have also been on the Board of Ford's Theater for more than a decade and have chaired their gala for almost as long. I remain active at the Kennedy Center. While I was at GM, I led our sponsorship of a number of activities and think that it is absolutely critical for the national arts community. I also have been very active with the Thelonius Jazz Monk Institute, help chair their events, raise dollars, and have supported Herbie Hancock's multiple activities with UNESCO and the State Department. There are a number of other activities I support at the national level throughout the year. In Michigan, I support most of the major cultural organizations such as remaining extremely active with the Parade Company and have become involved at the local level with Ann Arbor Festival of Fools. I have been on the board of the Michigan Opera Theater and served on event committees for the DIA, DSO, Music Hall, Dance, The Henry Ford Museum, the Center for Creative Studies the Downriver Arts Alliance, among others. I try to attend



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many events throughout the year in both Washtenaw and Wayne County, to be an advocate, fundraiser, and to support expansion and creative thinking.

I have also been a vocal advocate on the Wayne State University Board of Governors for our programs in the arts. Over the years I have worked with many advocates to fight for arts funding and by helping communities understand how important they are to our quality of life.

3. Thinking back to your own K-12 education, what arts or cultural classes, programs or activities did you participate in? In what way, if any, do you believe your participation influenced or still influences you?

I am proud of the K-12 education I received and am a firm believer that every child in America should have access to a quality, affordable education. Kids learn in different ways and creative opportunities are key to helping students achieve their potential. Arts and music education engage core centers in learning, such as memory, ingenuity, and expression which is why a broad-based curriculum that includes comprehensive arts education positively impacts student learning in other subjects.

4. What role do you think arts, culture, and the creative sector can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate, and preparing more students for college enrollment and the 21st century workforce?

Studies have consistently shown that arts education positively impacts student learning in a variety of areas – including writing and reading – which is key to, among other things, reducing the achievement gap and reducing dropout rates. For many students, arts can play a significant role in preparing them for the global economy by exposing them to new ideas, engaging them in new ways of thinking and inspiring them to further pursue their education. If elected to Congress, education will be one of my top priorities and I will fight to ensure that every child has access to a quality education, which includes arts education.

5. What role can arts, culture, and the creative sector play in Washtenaw's economic growth and vitality?

Washtenaw County's reputation around the world as a creative hub for artistic talent has significant positive effects on the local economy, ranging from retail to tourism to entertainment. The artistic business community is also growing in Washtenaw County and is the source of new small business startups. Washtenaw County's rich artistic traditions also play a key role in the consistently high marks the Ann Arbor area receives for quality of life which retains and draws new families to the region.

6. Do you support public investment in the creative economy? This includes arts, culture, heritage organizations and creative individuals.

Yes

Please explain your answer:

Public and private partnerships – including investments in the creative economy – are key to short- and long-term economic success in southeast Michigan.



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- 7. If elected, what measureable action(s) will you take during your term to support public investment in our community's creative economy and support arts, culture, heritage organizations and businesses and creative individuals?**

If elected to Congress, I will work with my colleagues to support federal investments in the creative economy, including tax policies and funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. These programs are under frequent attack from critics; a bipartisan and common-sense approach is required to protect these important investments.

- 8. What is your position on public funding for arts and culture and, if elected, how will your position be reflected during the budget/planning process?**

I support public funding for the arts and culture. If elected to Congress, I will work to preserve federal funding for programs including the National Endowment for the Arts as well as funding for comprehensive K-12 public education.

- 9. If you support public funding for arts and culture, what do you think are the best means of allocating funds?**

Line item appropriations
Appropriations distributed via grant programs
Tax based (millages, accomodations, sales etc.)

- 10. If elected, would you accept an invitation to become a member in an arts, culture and heritage caucus?**

Yes

If yes, from which caucus would you accept an invitation?

U.S.A. Congressional Caucus



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Office Candidate Seeks: State Senator

District/Ward: District 22

Candidate's Full Name: Joe Hune

Party Affiliation (if applicable): Republican

Candidate's E-mail Address: joehune@joehune.com

Office Candidate Seeks: State Senator

District/Ward: District 22

Party Affiliation (if applicable): Republican

Campaign Website: JoeHune.com

Campaign Contact:

1. In regards to arts, culture and heritage, do you consider yourself any of the following:

I believe that availability and access to arts, cultural and heritage offerings in our community make our community a great place to create, live, work, play, learn and visit.

I am a consumer of arts, culture and/or heritage products and programs.

2. What arts, cultural or heritage activities have you and/or your family members attended, participated in or supported in the past year?

Fowlerville Historical Society, Hartland Area Historical Society, Marion Heritage Days

3. Thinking back to your own K-12 education, what arts or cultural classes, programs or activities did you participate in? In what way, if any, do you believe your participation influenced or still influences you?

High School Art Classes

4. What role do you think arts, culture, and the creative sector can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate, and preparing more students for college enrollment and the 21st century workforce?

Helps to create a well rounded education and can help to keep students interested in education.

5. What role can arts, culture, and the creative sector play in Washtenaw's economic growth and vitality?

It is part of making Washtenaw a great place to live, work and recreate.

6. Do you support public investment in the creative economy? This includes arts, culture, heritage organizations and creative individuals.

Yes

Please explain your answer:

I have supported Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs funding.



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- 7. If elected, what measureable action(s) will you take during your term to support public investment in our community's creative economy and support arts, culture, heritage organizations and businesses and creative individuals?**

I will support the Michigan C.A.C.A. grants.

- 8. What is your position on public funding for arts and culture and, if elected, how will your position be reflected during the budget/planning process?**

I will support the Michigan C.A.C.A. grants.

- 9. If you support public funding for arts and culture, what do you think are the best means of allocating funds?**

Appropriations distributed via grant programs

- 10. If elected, would you accept an invitation to become a member in an arts, culture and heritage caucus?**

Yes

If yes, from which caucus would you accept an invitation?

Michigan Caucus



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Office Candidate Seeks: State Senator

District/Ward: District 22

Candidate's Full Name: Shari Pollesch

Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Candidate's E-mail Address: shari@voteforshari.com

Office Candidate Seeks: State Senator

District/Ward: District 22

Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Campaign Website: www.voteforshari.com

Campaign Contact: Shari Pollesch, 810.224.0560

1. In regards to arts, culture and heritage, do you consider yourself any of the following:

I believe that availability and access to arts, cultural and heritage offerings in our community make our community a great place to create, live, work, play, learn and visit.

I am a consumer of arts, culture and/or heritage products and programs.

2. What arts, cultural or heritage activities have you and/or your family members attended, participated in or supported in the past year?

I am a 20+ member of the Livingston County Concert Band and have been on and off its Board of Directors for most of that period. My Mother and I enjoy attending live theater at venues like the Purple Rose Theater and the Fisher. I am occasionally able to attend the DSO's annual performance at Kensington State Park.

3. Thinking back to your own K-12 education, what arts or cultural classes, programs or activities did you participate in? In what way, if any, do you believe your participation influenced or still influences you?

From 4th grade through college, I played in a concert band. I was also very involved in theater doing behind the scenes jobs like lighting, costumes and did perform in one musical as a high school senior. In college, I was the Student Director for a performance of "Guys and Dolls." These experiences enabled me to stay in touch with my creative energy and I believe help me in writing and oral presentations as an attorney.

4. What role do you think arts, culture, and the creative sector can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate, and preparing more students for college enrollment and the 21st century workforce?

A critical role....particularly in keeping at risk kids tuned into school. I had many peers that would have dropped out of high school were it not for the creative energy they were able to spend on theater and other performance arts. I believe that creative arts are under valued in classrooms. I see them as a critical way for everyone to discover and hone their gifts, even if those gifts are not primarily played out in the creative sector.



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5. What role can arts, culture, and the creative sector play in Washtenaw's economic growth and vitality?

Washtenaw county already has such a vibrant creative sector through the universities, through community based gems like the Purple Rose, through various art shows. I have no doubt that these activities and venues create economic growth and vitality. The job I would have as a legislature is to make sure that this sector is protected and supported so that it can grow.

6. Do you support public investment in the creative economy? This includes arts, culture, heritage organizations and creative individuals.

Yes

Please explain your answer:

I would support a creative arts millage to support the creative economy and we have discussed this as a Board for my community band. We provide such a rich opportunity for the community to enjoy culture at a meager cost but the constant worry about raising funds takes energy that could be directed to more performances.

7. If elected, what measureable action(s) will you take during your term to support public investment in our community's creative economy and support arts, culture, heritage organizations and businesses and creative individuals?

I need to study the need more thoroughly but I would have supported any Detroit plan that saved the DIA and protected the Arts for the city and for all of Michigan.

8. What is your position on public funding for arts and culture and, if elected, how will your position be reflected during the budget/planning process?

I would advocate to restore funding for the arts and culture and, particularly, for fully funded arts in all public schools. We are selling our children short by not robustly funding opportunities for learning in the creative arts in schools.

9. If you support public funding for arts and culture, what do you think are the best means of allocating funds?

Appropriations distributed via grant programs

Tax based (millages, accommodations, sales etc.)

I'm unsure about the "percent for Art/Culture" choice. If we currently allocate to the arts and culture on a line item basis, i would certainly support going forward. If we are not, I would support it in the future after we are properly funding our infrastructure needs, public schools and environmental protection.

10. If elected, would you accept an invitation to become a member in an arts, culture and heritage caucus?

Yes

If yes, from which caucus would you accept an invitation?

Washtenaw County Caucus



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Office Candidate Seeks: State Representative

District/Ward: District 52

Candidate's Full Name: Gretchen Driskell

Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Candidate's E-mail Address: gretchen@votegretchen.com

Office Candidate Seeks: State Representative

District/Ward: District 52

Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Campaign Website: www.votegretchen.com

Campaign Contact: Brian Merlos, 734.649.8243, brian@votegretchen.com, 141 E. Michigan Ave Suite B Saline, MI 48176

1. In regards to arts, culture and heritage, do you consider yourself any of the following:

I believe that availability and access to arts, cultural and heritage offerings in our community make our community a great place to create, live, work, play, learn and visit.

I am a consumer of arts, culture and/or heritage products and programs.

I am personally a donor to arts, cultural and/or heritage organizations.

2. What arts, cultural or heritage activities have you and/or your family members attended, participated in or supported in the past year?

Celtic festival, Dexter Plein Air, music events at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor Arts Center

3. Thinking back to your own K-12 education, what arts or cultural classes, programs or activities did you participate in? In what way, if any, do you believe your participation influenced or still influences you?

I grew up playing instruments, and music continues to be a big part of my family life.

4. What role do you think arts, culture, and the creative sector can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate, and preparing more students for college enrollment and the 21st century workforce?

A well-rounded education is key for children -- studies have shown that classes in music and art help kids do better in other subject areas. I have been working hard in Lansing to secure better funding for education, and I'm running for re-election so that I can continue to do so. Schools around the state have stopped offering art classes to deal with budget shortfalls, but when we fully fund our education system, our kids can get the wide array of classes that contribute to a world-class education.

5. What role can arts, culture, and the creative sector play in Washtenaw's economic growth and vitality?

People are drawn to culture, and they want to live in places where they can experience it. Cultivating arts and culture will make communities more attractive and generate additional spending and investment. Furthermore, many of these entities are small businesses, which generate most of our



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economic activity. More state support of entrepreneurs, including those in the creative sector, will help our economy grow.

6. Do you support public investment in the creative economy? This includes arts, culture, heritage organizations and creative individuals.

Yes

Please explain your answer:

I support increasing state assistance to small businesses, including those in the creative economy, so they can create jobs and make our communities a better place to live. Also I support allocating funds like MCCA grants to support community culture & art projects, and fledgling nonprofits.

7. If elected, what measureable action(s) will you take during your term to support public investment in our community's creative economy and support arts, culture, heritage organizations and businesses and creative individuals?

I support full funding for education so that schools can offer a robust portfolio of classes, including art and music, so that kids can enrich their education. I also believe we should help entrepreneurs, including those in the creative economy, to maintain and grow the presence of arts and culture in our communities.

8. What is your position on public funding for arts and culture and, if elected, how will your position be reflected during the budget/planning process?

There are several areas that deserve better funding, especially education. We also need to find money to fix our roads, and many families would benefit greatly from repealing harmful tax increases. Arts and culture are important, and while I support some public funding, we have many pressing needs that also must be met.

9. If you support public funding for arts and culture, what do you think are the best means of allocating funds?

- Line item appropriations
- Appropriations distributed via grant programs
- Tax based (millages, accommodations, sales etc.)
- Percent for Art/Culture ordinances
- Supporting local community initiatives to invest in arts & culture

10. If elected, would you accept an invitation to become a member in an arts, culture and heritage caucus?

Yes

If yes, from which caucus would you accept an invitation?

- U.S.A. Congressional Caucus
- Michigan Caucus
- Washtenaw County Caucus



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Office Candidate Seeks: Washtenaw County Commissioner
District/Ward: District 1

Candidate's Full Name: Kent Martinez-Kratz

Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Candidate's E-mail Address: kkratz@jpsmail.org

Campaign Website: www.facebook.com/KentMartinezKratz

Campaign Contact:

1. In regards to arts, culture and heritage, do you consider yourself any of the following:

I believe that availability and access to arts, cultural and heritage offerings in our community make our community a great place to create, live, work, play, learn and visit.

I am a consumer of arts, culture and/or heritage products and programs.

I am personally a donor to arts, cultural and/or heritage organizations.

2. What arts, cultural or heritage activities have you and/or your family members attended, participated in or supported in the past year?

We regularly attend theater events at the Fisher Theater, Detroit Opera House and the Wharton Center. We love to visit the Detroit Institute of Art and sit in the Rivera Court. Our family regularly attends the Ann Arbor Art Fair, Top of the Park events, the Detroit International Jazz Festival, Chelsea Sounds and Sights on Thursday nights, Chelsea Sculpture Walk, Lollapalooza, Chicago Institute of Art, student art shows and many solo, ensemble, and band performances. We are past members of the Waterloo Historical Society and attend events at the Farm museum. My two younger children play instruments, are involved in student band activities and enjoy other creative endeavors. We enjoy musical performances and musical theater as a family.

3. Thinking back to your own K-12 education, what arts or cultural classes, programs or activities did you participate in? In what way, if any, do you believe your participation influenced or still influences you?

My K-12 included both music and art instruction. My father was an artist and an art teacher and this had a significant impact on my appreciation of the arts.

4. What role do you think arts, culture, and the creative sector can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate, and preparing more students for college enrollment and the 21st century workforce?

As a teacher, I believe that arts education can be part of the solution to the key education priorities mentioned. Research suggests that students who study the Arts are more academically successful than their peers. Music education appears to change the brain and nervous system in ways that facilitate learning in other areas. Arts education could be the link that keeps students in school and promotes their success. Ideally students would benefit from the collaborative efforts of educators, the creative sector, policy makers, and civic and business leaders.



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5. What role can arts, culture, and the creative sector play in Washtenaw’s economic growth and vitality?

Washtenaw County's economic success and vitality are due in part to our robust creative sector. Washtenaw County was listed as one of the top five counties in Michigan for creative industries this year by ArtServe Michigan. Our creative sector creates jobs, boosts tourism, nurtures talent and provides us all with diverse cultural enrichment.

6. Do you support public investment in the creative economy? This includes arts, culture, heritage organizations and creative individuals.

Yes

Please explain your answer:

Maintaining Washtenaw County as a premier cultural destination will take more than just public investment. It will also take the collaboration of other stakeholders for public-private partnerships to overcome economic challenges.

7. If elected, what measureable action(s) will you take during your term to support public investment in our community’s creative economy and support arts, culture, heritage organizations and businesses and creative individuals?

We need to pursue innovative private-public partnerships and collaborations for funding of projects that will benefit all. I would support continued funding of local cultural events as they provide Washtenaw County with it's unique identity and quality of life.

8. What is your position on public funding for arts and culture and, if elected, how will your position be reflected during the budget/planning process?

I will advocate for public funding as is feasible during the budget and planning process. I will encourage public-private partnerships for collaborations that sustain our community.

9. If you support public funding for arts and culture, what do you think are the best means of allocating funds?

Line item appropriations
 Appropriations distributed via grant programs

10. If elected, would you accept an invitation to become a member in an arts, culture and heritage caucus?

Yes

If yes, from which caucus would you accept an invitation?

Washtenaw County Caucus



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2014 Washtenaw County Candidates Survey Response

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Office Candidate Seeks: Washtenaw County Commissioner

District/Ward: District 4

Candidate's Full Name: Felicia Brabec

Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Candidate's E-mail Address: feliciabrabec@gmail.com

Office Candidate Seeks: Washtenaw County Commissioner

District/Ward: District 4

Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Campaign Website: www.electfeliciabrabec@gmail.com

Campaign Contact: Felicia Brabec, 734.223.9390, feliciabrabec@gmail.com, 3167 Crimson Court, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

1. In regards to arts, culture and heritage, do you consider yourself any of the following:

I believe that availability and access to arts, cultural and heritage offerings in our community make our community a great place to create, live, work, play, learn and visit.

I am a consumer of arts, culture and/or heritage products and programs.

I am personally a donor to arts, cultural and/or heritage organizations.

2. What arts, cultural or heritage activities have you and/or your family members attended, participated in or supported in the past year?

Throughout the past year, we have attended several arts, cultural, and heritage activities including, but not limited to, Broadway in Detroit, Broadway in Chicago, Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, Art Institute of Chicago, Ann Arbor Art Fair, Top of the Park, African-American Festival, Food Gatherers Circle of Art, and Milan High School theatre production.

3. Thinking back to your own K-12 education, what arts or cultural classes, programs or activities did you participate in? In what way, if any, do you believe your participation influenced or still influences you?

During my elementary school years, I was fortunate to experience arts and music as integrated parts of the curriculum. The arts and music education that I received throughout that time, along with a family culture that placed great emphasis on the arts (I played both the violin and piano), have all contributed to create the arts lover and supporter in me. In fact, the aforementioned influences helped to guide me as I achieved a double major in Sociology and Anthropology. Finally, as a parent, I try to instill, not only the importance, but the experience of arts in our children.

4. What role do you think arts, culture, and the creative sector can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate, and preparing more students for college enrollment and the 21st century workforce?

Involvement and emphasis in the arts provides students with a more well-rounded, engaged educational experience. It supports and challenges young people to think more creatively and critically as they address complex problems, academically, emotionally, and socially. Arts can also serve as a connection



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to civic involvement. Each one of these possibilities can positively influence the achievement gap, dropout rate, readiness for college and the workforce.

5. What role can arts, culture, and the creative sector play in Washtenaw's economic growth and vitality?

As a County Commissioner, we have the opportunity to support local businesses. These businesses add value to our community by culturally enriching our residents' daily lives. We are also fortunate to have some of the best primary and secondary public schools in the state, an excellent community college, and two public universities that play a vital role in the development of our community. This educational foundation, which includes an investment in the arts, helps pave the way for future economic growth and vitality.

6. Do you support public investment in the creative economy? This includes arts, culture, heritage organizations and creative individuals.

Yes

Please explain your answer:

As alluded to throughout my responses, I believe that one of the major ways in which we publicly support arts, culture, and heritage is through investments in our educational system. I support a well-rounded curriculum which challenges, engages, and enriches students in many different ways on various levels. Our local schools and universities are the perfect conduit for sharing these values as they are home to many public art exhibitions, concerts, and theatre productions.

7. If elected, what measureable action(s) will you take during your term to support public investment in our community's creative economy and support arts, culture, heritage organizations and businesses and creative individuals?

Although the influence is limited at the County level, I will continue to support the investments that we make, particularly with Act 88 funding in the area of historic preservation. Through this preservation, we have the opportunity to realize and share our community's valuable historical cultural assets.

8. What is your position on public funding for arts and culture and, if elected, how will your position be reflected during the budget/planning process?

As stated previously, I will continue to support the funding that enables us to preserve our local culture. This investment enriches our present and future generations.

9. If you support public funding for arts and culture, what do you think are the best means of allocating funds?

Line item appropriations
Appropriations distributed via grant programs
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10. If elected, would you accept an invitation to become a member in an arts, culture and heritage caucus?

Yes



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If yes, from which caucus would you accept an invitation?

U.S.A. Congressional Caucus

Michigan Caucus

Washtenaw County Caucus



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Office Candidate Seeks: Washtenaw County Commissioner
District/Ward: District 5

Candidate's Full Name: Ruth Ann Jamnick
Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Candidate's E-mail Address: rajamnick@sbcglobal.net

Campaign Website: RAJamnick.com

Campaign Contact: Ruth Ann Jamnick, 734.485.5182, rajamnick@sbcglobal.net, 7776 Lake Crest Drive, Ypsilanti, MI 48197

1. In regards to arts, culture and heritage, do you consider yourself any of the following:

I believe that availability and access to arts, cultural and heritage offerings in our community make our community a great place to create, live, work, play, learn and visit.

I am a consumer of arts, culture and/or heritage products and programs.

I am personally a donor to arts, cultural and/or heritage organizations.

2. What arts, cultural or heritage activities have you and/or your family members attended, participated in or supported in the past year?

Nature's Classroom: I have made financial contributions; serve on their Board
2013 NAAPID at Night: I was a judge twice for the art contest and served on the Planning Committee for 9 years.
Ypsilanti Heritage Festival: I was a Festival volunteer for 5 or 6 years; attended many of the Festivals, purchasing some items.
Ypsilanti Festival of Lights during Christmas Holidays: I was among the first volunteers who actually put the lights in the strings and helped putting them in the trees. Served as Chair for 2 or 3 years.

3. Thinking back to your own K-12 education, what arts or cultural classes, programs or activities did you participate in? In what way, if any, do you believe your participation influenced or still influences you?

In my personal K-12 Education, there weren't any arts or cultural classes, programs or activities to participate in. I have always wanted to play the piano and unfortunately, that wasn't possible. While attending a silent auction at a fundraiser for Ypsilanti High School's Orchestra a few years ago, I actually purchased 3 piano lessons for \$25 and truly enjoyed the experience. I was encouraged to continue with lessons and think many times that I should 'just do it'. When raising my children, as they expressed an interest in music, I encouraged them to take the opportunity, presented by their elementary school. One learned to play the flute and another the trumpet. I also purchased a lot of supplies for school posters, etc. I have always enjoyed music and attended concerts at Pease Auditorium, plays at the Fox Theatre, concerts at Washtenaw Community College. I have enjoyed visits to the DIA, Detroit Historical Museum; our Ypsilanti Historical Society collection and U/M Museum of Art and Natural History. I am looking forward to attending some performances with my 86 year old Aunt who has returned to Michigan from Florida. She is a very special lady to my family and it will be great enjoying them with her.

4. What role do you think arts, culture, and the creative sector can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate, and preparing more students for college enrollment and the 21st century workforce?

When serving in the Michigan Legislature, I had an opportunity to talk with a friend who is a partner in a successful engineering

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company about a letter I received from Michigan Tech. The letter shared with me the number of students from the 54th District who were enrolled there. One comment he made comes to mind ... his firm did not hire engineers who did not have a Liberal Arts Degree. Their experience was that those who had that degree along with their engineering degree performed better because their thinking process was not just the surveying, lines, etc. One of my children is a teacher and she shared with me their Math Dance before the end of the school year. Students that might have been challenging during their school day, were enthusiastic and enjoyed the hard work, creating a successful performance. These are two small instances where I learned that art made a difference in how people felt and think differently with an art related experience.

- 5. What role can arts, culture, and the creative sector play in Washtenaw's economic growth and vitality?** Huge! They bring people to our County to willingly spend their dollars here. Just to mention two: As I type this, the Ann Arbor Art Fair has been in full swing. It brings many people who stay in our hotels throughout the County and enjoy spending their money in many places, not just in their purchasing items from the many vendors. There are many events throughout the County that are not on the scale of the Ann Arbor Art Fair, but do bring people to Washtenaw County and they spend their money here too. Trade unions hold their training sessions at our higher learning institutions. Those 'students' enjoy, spending their dollars in our local businesses throughout the County. I remember being asked a store that carried a special brand of men's boots. I had not heard of it, but in asking some questions, found the location. It became a very popular place to go at that time. The timing of the first union training session, Plumbers and Pipefitters, was always scheduled to be in conjunction with the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival. Many times they bring their families with them to enjoy what our communities have to offer.
- 6. Do you support public investment in the creative economy? This includes arts, culture, heritage organizations and creative individuals.** Yes

Please explain your answer: I believe public investment can be made to support the arts, culture and heritage and creative individuals. There are funds available from the Michigan Historical Society to assist in restoring our historic buildings and sometimes through a Downtown Development Authority, dollars can be made available as well. In today's challenging financial times, pretty much for all levels of government, citizens are more concerned about those dollars being spent for public safety, repairing roads, water/sewer line replacement, street lighting, security cameras, etc. In difficult financial times, elected officials have difficult decisions on where those dollars are to be spent. I think everyone agrees, when funds are needed for public safety and infrastructure, we may need to come together to find other sources of funding to maintain for our arts, culture and heritage organizations and creative individuals. We have generous people and businesses in our County who, in the past have been willing to help. It is important, during difficult financial times in our local governments, that we be resourceful to fill the gap for our non-governmental needs.

- 7. If elected, what measureable action(s) will you take during your term to support public investment in our community's creative economy and support arts, culture, heritage organizations and businesses and creative individuals?** I am willing to learn more about how the County has supported such public investments in the past. The Board of Commissioners has approved a 4 year budget for expenditures. It is my understanding, for each of the 3 remaining years, the budget will be reviewed and approved for each year individually, which allows changes as agreed. I willing to be a part of a discussions with the Arts Alliance to learn more about your expectations and desire for specific funding, for what purposes.



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It has been my understanding both Convention & Visitors Bureau have been supportive of the arts, culture, heritage organizations and business and creative individuals, when there were opportunities.

8. What is your position on public funding for arts and culture and, if elected, how will your position be reflected during the budget/planning process? I am willing to learn more about how the County has supported such public investments in the past. The Board of Commissioners has approved a 4 year budget for expenditures. It is my understanding, for each of the 3 remaining years, the budget will be reviewed and approved for each year individually, which allows changes, as agreed. I know there are sometimes limitations on how public funds can be spent and will need to learn what those limitations might be, if any for the County funds. I willing to be a part of a discussions with the Arts Alliance to learn more about your expectations and desire for specific funding for what purposes.

9. If you support public funding for arts and culture, what do you think are the best means of allocating funds?

Line item appropriations. Appropriations distributed via grant programs

10. If elected, would you accept an invitation to become a member in an arts, culture and heritage caucus? Yes

If yes, from which caucus would you accept an invitation?

Washtenaw County Caucus



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Office Candidate Seeks: Washtenaw County Commissioner
District/Ward: District 5

Candidate's Full Name: Timothy A. King
Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Candidate's E-mail Address: timking1573@comcast.net

Campaign Website:

Campaign Contact: Timothy King 734.480.7168, 1573 Mollie, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

1. In regards to arts, culture and heritage, do you consider yourself any of the following:

I believe that availability and access to arts, cultural and heritage offerings in our community make our community a great place to create, live, work, play, learn and visit.

I am a consumer of arts, culture and/or heritage products and programs.

2. What arts, cultural or heritage activities have you and/or your family members attended, participated in or supported in the past year?

We have attended the Art fair in the past in Ann Arbor and we like to go to the Art Museum and Dinosaur Museum at the University of Michigan and my wife and daughter also like the Hands on Museum in Ann Arbor which is really cool. My wife is staff at U of M so it is cool taking lunch up to her and taking the kids to see the Dinosaur Museum.

3. Thinking back to your own K-12 education, what arts or cultural classes, programs or activities did you participate in? In what way, if any, do you believe your participation influenced or still influences you?

Being a Graduate of Willow Run High School class of 1985 I was exposed to a lot of art and it was a influence to me even back then even in art classes that I took. I believe in saving Art. Art tells the story of our culture and accomplishments as Human beings,its who we are and where we are going.I guess im a starving artist having things made at Pierre Paul Art Gallery,the last thing I had made up was on Baseball Entitled "The Gas House Gang" 1934 St.Louis Cardinals artifacts display with autographs of Dizzy & Paul Dean. I took a loss on it.

4. What role do you think arts, culture, and the creative sector can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate, and preparing more students for college enrollment and the 21st century workforce?

Telling our story as American and the American experience. We go to Civil War re-enactments with my Son who is a reenactor with the 4th Michigan to Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford every year "Civil War Days". We have traveled to Gettysburg Pennsylvania where my son was part of the "Gettysburg 150 celebration being a Junior in High school,my Son has gone to his Sisters school at East Arbor Academy dressed in his civil war uniform to talk to kids about our culture,and history

5. What role can arts, culture, and the creative sector play in Washtenaw's economic growth and vitality?



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A Big part, I'm a member of the Yankee Air force Museum and our museums need to be saved weather art work Claude Monet, Pablo Pacasso, or one of my favorites to see Pierre Renior an impressionist artist.

6. Do you support public investment in the creative economy? This includes arts, culture, heritage organizations and creative individuals.

Yes

Please explain your answer:

To a certain point, restoration is a must, however we must look at what is being called art these days and ask our selves is it racist, anti Jewish or vulgar to all Americans or any part of our society. Then that is not art. I'm involved in a project to have a Memorial to the Rosie the Riveters and the Willow Run Bomber Plant to our Freedom honoring the B-24 Liberator to our freedom and the crews that flew them, Henry Ford and all the workers at Willow Run asking the State for funds for this endeavor.

7. If elected, what measureable action(s) will you take during your term to support public investment in our community's creative economy and support arts, culture, heritage organizations and businesses and creative individuals?

I'm already doing it going to all Mayors, City Councils, Village Councils, Township Supervisors and Boards in Washtenaw, Monroe, Wayne, Oakland Counties with a Proclamation to sign to have the Governor and Legislature to Propose preform and pursue legislation for funding a memorial to the Willow Run Bomber plant, B-24 Bomber, and the Rosie the Riveters which will bring in revenue and be a stoping point for people from all over our State and truely "PURE MICHIGAN" I hope in Ypsilanti Township.

8. What is your position on public funding for arts and culture and, if elected, how will your position be reflected during the budget/planning process?

If it is worthy and reflects American values and patroitism im all for it. Or if it has to do with History.

9. If you support public funding for arts and culture, what do you think are the best means of allocating funds?

Appropriations distributed via grant programs
 Private donations to museums

10. If elected, would you accept an invitation to become a member in an arts, culture and heritage caucus?

Yes

If yes, from which caucus would you accept an invitation?

Michigan Caucus
 Washtenaw County Caucus



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Office Candidate Seeks: Washtenaw County Commissioner
District/Ward: District 7

Candidate's Full Name: Andy LaBarre
Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Candidate's E-mail Address: andy.labarre@gmail.com
Campaign Website: www.andylabarre.com
Campaign Contact: Andy LaBarre, 734.945.1298

- 1. In regards to arts, culture and heritage, do you consider yourself any of the following:**
I believe that availability and access to arts, cultural and heritage offerings in our community make our community a great place to create, live, work, play, learn and visit.
I am a consumer of arts, culture and/or heritage products and programs.
I am personally a donor to arts, cultural and/or heritage organizations.
- 2. What arts, cultural or heritage activities have you and/or your family members attended, participated in or supported in the past year?**
Museums, libraries and film
- 3. Thinking back to your own K-12 education, what arts or cultural classes, programs or activities did you participate in? In what way, if any, do you believe your participation influenced or still influences you?**
Mrs. Clark (Nancy) was my elementary art teacher. She helped foster a love of drawing that I had through high school. I am still influenced by her efforts to have an open artistic mind.
- 4. What role do you think arts, culture, and the creative sector can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate, and preparing more students for college enrollment and the 21st century workforce?**
Art can be the connection to educational institutions and communities that keeps children from leaving. By leaving I mean both leaving the community and leaving their education process. Art can also help people connect to each other, leading to personal bonds that establish and keep relationships that are the core of a community. Basically, art can be good for everyone.
- 5. What role can arts, culture, and the creative sector play in Washtenaw's economic growth and vitality?**
The main roles are attraction, retention, and enhancement.
- 6. Do you support public investment in the creative economy? This includes arts, culture, heritage organizations and creative individuals.**
Yes

Please explain your answer:



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There is a public good to be derived from these investments. They can be excellent uses of tax dollars when done properly.

7. If elected, what measureable action(s) will you take during your term to support public investment in our community's creative economy and support arts, culture, heritage organizations and businesses and creative individuals?

I'll continue the existing efforts of Washtenaw County and I'll try and be an advocate for new ways as they become available or feasible. The way to measure that is to ask members of the arts community if I have been accessible and responsive to their communications.

8. What is your position on public funding for arts and culture and, if elected, how will your position be reflected during the budget/planning process?

Arts and cultural activities have a place as recipients of public funding. They will not always be funded as well (if at all) as other services but they should always be considered as a good possibility and they should not be dismissed as frivolous. I think some have tried to claim there is a choice between either funding arts or funding basic services. I think that's not accurate. Basic services have to come first but we can't simply eliminate public funding of the arts as a consideration. When its possible (that definition will vary between people) I will advocate for arts funding. When it is not possible I won't criticize ideas about funding the arts as foolish or useless.

9. If you support public funding for arts and culture, what do you think are the best means of allocating funds?

Line item appropriations
Appropriations distributed via grant programs
Tax based (millages, accommodations, sales etc.)

10. If elected, would you accept an invitation to become a member in an arts, culture and heritage caucus?

Yes

If yes, from which caucus would you accept an invitation?

Washtenaw County Caucus



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Office Candidate Seeks: Ann Arbor Mayor

District/Ward: Ann Arbor

Candidate's Full Name: Christopher Taylor

Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Candidate's E-mail Address: votetaylor2@gmail.com

Campaign Website: taylorforannarbor.com

Campaign Contact: Alex Yerkey, 734.478.1904. ayerkey@gmail.com, 201 South Ashley, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

1. In regards to arts, culture and heritage, do you consider yourself any of the following:

I believe that availability and access to arts, cultural and heritage offerings in our community make our community a great place to create, live, work, play, learn and visit.

I am a consumer of arts, culture and/or heritage products and programs.

I am personally a donor to arts, cultural and/or heritage organizations.

2. What arts, cultural or heritage activities have you and/or your family members attended, participated in or supported in the past year?

Ann Arbor in Concert Burns Park Players Approx 10 UMS events

3. Thinking back to your own K-12 education, what arts or cultural classes, programs or activities did you participate in? In what way, if any, do you believe your participation influenced or still influences you?

Music and theater formed the foundation of my K-12 education. I have participated in music and theater since the 7th grade, attended the Interlochen National Music Camp for four full summers, and spent my 11th and 12th grades attending the Interlochen Arts Academy. I have a BMA in Vocal Performance from the University of Michigan. Arts and culture are an important part of my personal identity and an everyday part of my life.

4. What role do you think arts, culture, and the creative sector can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate, and preparing more students for college enrollment and the 21st century workforce?

An active program in arts and culture is pennies-on-the-dollar effective in building community and supporting educational achievement.

5. What role can arts, culture, and the creative sector play in Washtenaw's economic growth and vitality?

An active program in arts and culture is pennies-on-the-dollar effective in building community and supporting economic development. Arts and culture are critical for place-making and talent attraction/retention. The quality of life improvements that come from an active arts and culture environment are good for everyone.



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6. **Do you support public investment in the creative economy? This includes arts, culture, heritage organizations and creative individuals.**

Yes

Please explain your answer:

Public investment in the arts is a social good. It deserves public support.

7. **If elected, what measureable action(s) will you take during your term to support public investment in our community's creative economy and support arts, culture, heritage organizations and businesses and creative individuals?**

I would continue to advocate for the arts and culture and to vote in favor of Ann Arbor's active participation in these endeavors. I would also be ready, willing, and able to lend whatever support I could as Mayor to local arts organizations / enterprises to help them improve our community.

8. **What is your position on public funding for arts and culture and, if elected, how will your position be reflected during the budget/planning process?**

I believe that the arts and culture deserve public funding. I have voted on numerous occasions to provide that support and will continue to do so.

9. **If you support public funding for arts and culture, what do you think are the best means of allocating funds?**

Line item appropriations
Appropriations distributed via grant programs
Tax based (millages, accommodations, sales etc.)

10. **If elected, would you accept an invitation to become a member in an arts, culture and heritage caucus?**

Yes

If yes, from which caucus would you accept an invitation?



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Office Candidate Seeks: Dexter Township Supervisor
District/Ward: Dexter Township

Candidate's Full Name: Michael Vladik Kundak-Cowall
Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Candidate's E-mail Address: mkundakco08@charter.net
Campaign Website:
Campaign Contact:

1. In regards to arts, culture and heritage, do you consider yourself any of the following:

I believe that availability and access to arts, cultural and heritage offerings in our community make our community a great place to create, live, work, play, learn and visit.
I am a consumer of arts, culture and/or heritage products and programs.
I am personally a donor to arts, cultural and/or heritage organizations.

2. What arts, cultural or heritage activities have you and/or your family members attended, participated in or supported in the past year?

I have been a visitor to the DIA on multiple occasions within the past year, as well as cultural festivals such as the Russian Festival at St. Vladimir's.

3. Thinking back to your own K-12 education, what arts or cultural classes, programs or activities did you participate in? In what way, if any, do you believe your participation influenced or still influences you?

I was an avid member of the music program in Chelsea District schools, a member of the marching band in both middle school and high school, and a member of the Chelsea House Orchestra itself in high school. These programs introduced me to public performance and the thrills of simply being in the public eye, experiences which have helped foster my own public speaking skills and encourage me to get more involved in public affairs and local politics.

4. What role do you think arts, culture, and the creative sector can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate, and preparing more students for college enrollment and the 21st century workforce?

Art expands minds and introduces us to other cultures, new ideas, and ways of expressing ourselves that hadn't even occurred to us before. To broaden ourselves to new horizons and see new angles to the world around us brings us healthier, more fluid minds that can much more easily tackle the challenges of the modern economy, to say nothing of facing all the social challenges and political hurdles of this new century.

5. What role can arts, culture, and the creative sector play in Washtenaw's economic growth and vitality?

The creative mind is a mind bursting with new ideas, new solutions, new things to try out; encouraging arts and culture encourages inventive new approaches to technology and to our economy as a whole.



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Startups and other enterprises born of innovative minds help diversify Washtenaw's economy, give it fresh blood and more alternatives if one sector should falter.

6. Do you support public investment in the creative economy? This includes arts, culture, heritage organizations and creative individuals.

Yes

Please explain your answer:

Art can express the feelings of a community after a tragedy, or unite a community when all seems fractured. Art can help communicate political ideas in ways that a mass-produced mimeograph never can. Art shapes and reinforces our sense of identity. Art brings beauty to our homes and villages, and breaks up monotonous uniformity which can sometimes seep into our towns. Public investment in creative works is a no-brainer; we profit as a society and community when we invest in creativity.

7. If elected, what measureable action(s) will you take during your term to support public investment in our community's creative economy and support arts, culture, heritage organizations and businesses and creative individuals?

There is nothing appropriated for arts and culture in the 2014/2015 fiscal year budget for Dexter Township. However, total appropriations are 11% less than total revenues for the township; this offers us some flexibility in terms of future planning.

8. What is your position on public funding for arts and culture and, if elected, how will your position be reflected during the budget/planning process?

I am personally in favor of publicly-funded art projects, but if elected I'll have a township board to work and compromise with through the budgeting and planning process. I will be a steadfast advocate, but will be unable to make grand executive actions on my own.

9. If you support public funding for arts and culture, what do you think are the best means of allocating funds?

Line item appropriations

Appropriations distributed via grant programs

10. If elected, would you accept an invitation to become a member in an arts, culture and heritage caucus?

Yes

If yes, from which caucus would you accept an invitation?

Washtenaw County Caucus



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Office Candidate Seeks: Ann Arbor City Council
District/Ward: Ward 1

Candidate's Full Name: Sumi Kailasapathy
Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Candidate's E-mail Address: sumi4aa@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.sumi4aa.com

Campaign Contact: Dawn Bizzell, dmbizzell@gmail.com, 2530 Mallard Court, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

1. In regards to arts, culture and heritage, do you consider yourself any of the following:

I believe that availability and access to arts, cultural and heritage offerings in our community make our community a great place to create, live, work, play, learn and visit.

I am a consumer of arts, culture and/or heritage products and programs.

I am personally a donor to arts, cultural and/or heritage organizations.

2. What arts, cultural or heritage activities have you and/or your family members attended, participated in or supported in the past year?

I financially support the heritage organization, SAADA (South Asian American Digital Archives). My family and I also attend cultural musical and dance performances hosted by University Musical Society.

3. Thinking back to your own K-12 education, what arts or cultural classes, programs or activities did you participate in? In what way, if any, do you believe your participation influenced or still influences you?

In school, I participated in dance programs. I learned and started performing Bharathanatyam – South Indian classical dancing. I love dance and my dance experience allowed me to communicate with others in a different way and has been an influence in my life ever since. My son is currently taking violin lessons and it makes me happy to see him enjoy this experience.

4. What role do you think arts, culture, and the creative sector can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate, and preparing more students for college enrollment and the 21st century workforce?

The arts definitely should have an important place in the schools. They add historic, aesthetic and humane dimensions to education. They develop skills that no other activities touch. In addition, they give students an outlet for their passions, build confidence and award pleasure in health ways, things students need as they mature.

5. What role can arts, culture, and the creative sector play in Washtenaw's economic growth and vitality?

The cultural arts and creative sectors have always played an important role in Washtenaw County's economic growth and vitality. Many individuals in our community are "self-employed" in these sectors and our local economy benefits from them. In addition, the area's strong artistic and musical life is a draw to newcomers and gives our city the cultural life of a big city, but with a small town atmosphere.



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- 6. Do you support public investment in the creative economy? This includes arts, culture, heritage organizations and creative individuals.**

Yes

Please explain your answer:

I support the national and state level funding of arts, culture, and heritage organizations, along with a limited amount at the municipal level. In November 2012, Ann Arbor voters rejected the Percentage for Arts program and I respect their decision. Ann Arbor City Council is working to transition the Arts program into a collaborative process using public and private money. In addition, some projects should have art included in the design and budget when proposed (i.e. “baked in” art funding).

- 7. If elected, what measureable action(s) will you take during your term to support public investment in our community’s creative economy and support arts, culture, heritage organizations and businesses and creative individuals?**

Along with other members on City Council, I will work toward establishing an Arts program that provides for a collaborative arrangement using public and private money. On a broader scope, the City can partner with the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University and other institutions to provide support to organizations, businesses, and individuals.

- 8. What is your position on public funding for arts and culture and, if elected, how will your position be reflected during the budget/planning process?**

I believe that public funding for arts and culture should be combined with private funding.

- 9. If you support public funding for arts and culture, what do you think are the best means of allocating funds?**

Coordinating private donations to a public fund

- 10. If elected, would you accept an invitation to become a member in an arts, culture and heritage caucus?**

Yes

If yes, from which caucus would you accept an invitation?



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Office Candidate Seeks: Ann Arbor City Council

District/Ward: Ward 2

Candidate's Full Name: Kirk Westphal

Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Candidate's E-mail Address: kirk@kirkforcouncil.org

Campaign Website: www.KirkForCouncil.org

Campaign Contact: Kirk Westphal, 734.845.9220, Kirk@KirkForCouncil.org, The Committee to Elect Kirk Westphal, 3465 Vintage Valley Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

1. In regards to arts, culture and heritage, do you consider yourself any of the following:

I believe that availability and access to arts, cultural and heritage offerings in our community make our community a great place to create, live, work, play, learn and visit.

I am a consumer of arts, culture and/or heritage products and programs.

I am personally a donor to arts, cultural and/or heritage organizations.

2. What arts, cultural or heritage activities have you and/or your family members attended, participated in or supported in the past year?

As my wife, Cynthia, is a professor in UM's musical theater department, we're totally immersed in their outstanding performances (Les Miserables, Dance With Me, A Little Night Music). The family was also fortunate to accompany her to New York for her music direction role in A Christmas Story. We've also been to local recitals of musician friends and a YPT performance of The Wizard of Oz. Museum visits have included the Hall of Science in New York to the Henry Ford to UMMA.

3. Thinking back to your own K-12 education, what arts or cultural classes, programs or activities did you participate in? In what way, if any, do you believe your participation influenced or still influences you?

I was a singer for years in my public high school, both in choir as well as in a madrigal group. I studied piano privately for years. These instilled in me a deep appreciation for music--a gift that I'm passing along to my children.

4. What role do you think arts, culture, and the creative sector can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate, and preparing more students for college enrollment and the 21st century workforce?

While our test-driven culture attempts to marginalize the arts into the "nice to have" category, we have to step back and look at the facts. Studies show that an emphasis on the arts has a positive influence on academic performance in other subjects and graduation rates. I think this makes sense on many levels. Children who have a sense of pride in creating something unique at school want to be there. I see it in my children, and I can still remember performances I was a part of in high school. In fact, politician or not, I plan to participate personally in efforts to bring more visual arts options to high school students.

5. What role can arts, culture, and the creative sector play in Washtenaw's economic growth and vitality?



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Without the creative sector, we may have growth, but we won't have vitality. Can anyone think of a vital place they've visited that didn't have an obvious creative influence? By being purposeful about their support of arts and cultural organizations, I think the public sector, private sector and community leaders should set the tone for others to follow. We have to instill advancement of artists and the creative fields at the grassroots level and have fertile ground for them to thrive. Our future depends on it.

6. Do you support public investment in the creative economy? This includes arts, culture, heritage organizations and creative individuals.

Yes

Please explain your answer:

I believe it is critical to build a creative economy that allows local artists the opportunity to earn a living here and that will attract new artists from outside to move here. Equally important is to recognize that artists come in all stripes. There are artists who are painters and sculptors and artists who practice in public places like urban planners, architects, and landscape designers. The common thread to all of this activity is creativity. Ann Arbor is seen as the creative engine of our region. As an urban planner, I know that communities who invest in their creative sector are investing in their future. Artists need to be major players in reinventing Michigan and model how art--of all kinds--creates actual financial value in cities. They can do this by first demonstrating civic leadership that is inclusive and promotes creativity in our neighborhoods.

7. If elected, what measureable action(s) will you take during your term to support public investment in our community's creative economy and support arts, culture, heritage organizations and businesses and creative individuals?

I know that community is built from the ground up not the top down. I want to listen first before I recommend concrete actions. However, as a planner, I would recommend that the community create a shared "master plan" for how we invest in arts and culture. It needs to be custom built for our town. We need to listen to all stakeholders. We have a community with a range of provincial and progressive tastes in public art, and our plan would need to address everyone's needs.

8. What is your position on public funding for arts and culture and, if elected, how will your position be reflected during the budget/planning process?

The new "baked in" art process seems to be an improvement, but I want to make sure it is inclusive of all tastes. Like anything new, we need time to see if this process is working, how it is being implemented, and how to improve it. If elected, I will bring together residents who are willing to demonstrate civic leadership and help create a master art plan. I look forward to listening to the conversation that evolves.

9. If you support public funding for arts and culture, what do you think are the best means of allocating funds?

Line item appropriations
Appropriations distributed via grant programs
Crowd-sourcing, ongoing evaluation of "baked in" art



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10. If elected, would you accept an invitation to become a member in an arts, culture and heritage caucus?

Yes

If yes, from which caucus would you accept an invitation?

Washtenaw County Caucus



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Office Candidate Seeks: Ann Arbor City Council

District/Ward: Ward 3

Candidate's Full Name: Julie Grand

Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Candidate's E-mail Address: julie@votegrand.org

Campaign Website: votegrand.org

Campaign Contact:

1. In regards to arts, culture and heritage, do you consider yourself any of the following:

I believe that availability and access to arts, cultural and heritage offerings in our community make our community a great place to create, live, work, play, learn and visit.

I am a consumer of arts, culture and/or heritage products and programs.

I am personally a donor to arts, cultural and/or heritage organizations.

2. What arts, cultural or heritage activities have you and/or your family members attended, participated in or supported in the past year?

My daughter has enjoyed performing with the Burns Park Players. She and I have attended performances by the Young People's Theater (Power Center), Ann Arbor in Concert (Michigan Theater), and the Senior Concert of my fantastic campaign volunteer, Anna Hayman (Kerrytown Concert House). I volunteered as a centers helper regularly in my son's Young Fives classroom. His teacher was happy to accommodate my offer to take on the "messiest" projects, which typically revolved around art. My family looks forward to attending various local festivals, such as Top of the Park and Festifools.

3. Thinking back to your own K-12 education, what arts or cultural classes, programs or activities did you participate in? In what way, if any, do you believe your participation influenced or still influences you?

I was a dancer from kindergarten through my senior year in college. I also performed in musical theater, serving as a performer and choreographer. My final dance performance was part of an outreach program to elementary school students in the Philadelphia Public Schools. There is no better way to end a dance career than playing the role of a princess in front of a room full of kindergartners. Dance had a significant impact on my life. I taught dance to younger children, working as a helper while still in elementary school. I was able to build a new dance program in high school from the ground up, which provided opportunities for a creative physical outlet as well as leadership. My family's support of creative pursuits also influenced my brother to become a public middle school art teacher.

4. What role do you think arts, culture, and the creative sector can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate, and preparing more students for college enrollment and the 21st century workforce?

Arts are an essential piece of a quality K-12 education. In terms of retention, creative opportunities can provide a reason for struggling students to come to school. When talents is recognized, students gain confidence that can transfer to traditional academic subjects and are provided with a framework for the



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creative thinking required of a knowledge-based economy. The most successful entrepreneurs commonly share a mastery of both science/technology and a visual/performing art.

5. What role can arts, culture, and the creative sector play in Washtenaw's economic growth and vitality?

The creative sector can help diversify our economy. Creative jobs are a growth industry in both the not-for-profit and for-profit sectors. Arts events also support businesses, as locals and visitors are drawn to neighboring restaurants and retail.

6. Do you support public investment in the creative economy? This includes arts, culture, heritage organizations and creative individuals.

Yes

Please explain your answer:

I support public investment in the arts because it contributes to the quality of life of our city. Businesses and individuals looking to relocate include the creative economy as an important metric of a city's vitality. We are fortunate to live in a community with an established and emerging creative economy and need to promote its growth.

7. If elected, what measureable action(s) will you take during your term to support public investment in our community's creative economy and support arts, culture, heritage organizations and businesses and creative individuals?

I believe we need to focus on smaller budget projects that are in accessible locations, include a more extensive public engagement process, and promote the inclusion of local artists. I'm also in support of exploring public-private partnerships to fund art, as well providing funding for temporary art and festivals. The Ann Arbor Public Art Commission (AAPAC) has been left completely defunded and without staff support. I would like to see AAPAC receive some support to successfully transition from the former Percent for Art funding model.

8. What is your position on public funding for arts and culture and, if elected, how will your position be reflected during the budget/planning process?

I would like to support projects that are smaller-scale, local, and are unrestricted thematically based on the funding source. The "baked in" inclusion of art for capital expenditures should both fit and enhance the project. I would prefer to see art where it is readily accessible to the public, not only in the downtown, but in neighborhood parks and along the Huron River. The City Council should continue to support organizations such as the Ann Arbor Summer Festival, so that all residents can enjoy and be exposed to the performing arts.

9. If you support public funding for arts and culture, what do you think are the best means of allocating funds?

Line item appropriations
Appropriations distributed via grant programs

10. If elected, would you accept an invitation to become a member in an arts, culture and heritage caucus?



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Yes

If yes, from which caucus would you accept an invitation?

Washtenaw County Caucus



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Office Candidate Seeks: Ann Arbor City Council

District/Ward: Ward 4

Candidate's Full Name: Graydon Krapohl

Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Candidate's E-mail Address: krapohl4council@gmail.com

Campaign Website: www.krapohl4council.com

Campaign Contact: Graydon Krapohl, krapohl4council@gmail.com, Krapohl for Council 1308 E. Stadium Blvd. Ann Arbor, MI 48104

1. In regards to arts, culture and heritage, do you consider yourself any of the following:

I believe that availability and access to arts, cultural and heritage offerings in our community make our community a great place to create, live, work, play, learn and visit.

I am a consumer of arts, culture and/or heritage products and programs.

2. What arts, cultural or heritage activities have you and/or your family members attended, participated in or supported in the past year?

We have attended some of the performing arts programs.

3. Thinking back to your own K-12 education, what arts or cultural classes, programs or activities did you participate in? In what way, if any, do you believe your participation influenced or still influences you?

Art and music are the ones that I remember most and I think help me in developing an appreciation for both and also expand my ability to think and ways to look at and solve problems.

4. What role do you think arts, culture, and the creative sector can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate, and preparing more students for college enrollment and the 21st century workforce?

I am not an expert in this area, but think that art, music and cultural activities are essential for children in their development and can provide a means and an outlet for them to express themselves and ideas while also helping them to learn to think and develop other life skills.

5. What role can arts, culture, and the creative sector play in Washtenaw's economic growth and vitality?

I think that the arts, culture, and creative sector can help in developing and fostering a cultural scene that can help attract visitors to Ann Arbor who not only spend their money on events and themselves, but also contribute to local economies by dining in restaurants, staying in hotels, and purchasing gifts and services in the community.

6. Do you support public investment in the creative economy? This includes arts, culture, heritage organizations and creative individuals.

Yes



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Please explain your answer:

I think though it is important work in coordination with arts and culture organizations, businesses, and other elements from the public sector to maximize investments in the creative economy.

7. If elected, what measureable action(s) will you take during your term to support public investment in our community's creative economy and support arts, culture, heritage organizations and businesses and creative individuals?

I would work to encourage partnerships among cultural, business and the public sector to help address cultural and economic development goals through a wide variety of creative placemaking initiatives.

8. What is your position on public funding for arts and culture and, if elected, how will your position be reflected during the budget/planning process?

I support it but as stated before, I think that we will need to work in conjunction with other organizations that have an interest in arts and culture and their benefits to include arts and cultural organizations, business and business organizations, and public sector organizations.

9. If you support public funding for arts and culture, what do you think are the best means of allocating funds?

Line item appropriations
Appropriations distributed via grant programs

10. If elected, would you accept an invitation to become a member in an arts, culture and heritage caucus?

Yes

If yes, from which caucus would you accept an invitation?

Washtenaw County Caucus



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Office Candidate Seeks: Ann Arbor City Council
District/Ward: Ward 5

Candidate's Full Name: Chuck Warpehoski
Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Candidate's E-mail Address: chuck@voteforchuck.org
Campaign Website: www.voteforchuck.org
Campaign Contact: 2020 Winewood Ann Arbor, MI 48103

- 1. In regards to arts, culture and heritage, do you consider yourself any of the following:**
I believe that availability and access to arts, cultural and heritage offerings in our community make our community a great place to create, live, work, play, learn and visit.
I am a consumer of arts, culture and/or heritage products and programs.
I am personally a donor to arts, cultural and/or heritage organizations.
- 2. What arts, cultural or heritage activities have you and/or your family members attended, participated in or supported in the past year?**
Top of the Park, concerts at the farmers markets, kids arts events at the library
- 3. Thinking back to your own K-12 education, what arts or cultural classes, programs or activities did you participate in? In what way, if any, do you believe your participation influenced or still influences you?**
In school I participated in band, theater, and forensics. I learned the value of practice and teamwork. Also, the literature I studied in my language classes gave me an appreciation for the power of well-crafted, insightful prose to illuminate the human condition.
- 4. What role do you think arts, culture, and the creative sector can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate, and preparing more students for college enrollment and the 21st century workforce?**
One of the key challenges our educational system faces is to create a learning environment that engages students to that they want to be there and to learn. For some students, the arts provide that creative outlet that they feel passionate about that connects them to their education.
- 5. What role can arts, culture, and the creative sector play in Washtenaw's economic growth and vitality?**
Economic vitality in the 21st century depends on creating environments that people want to work, live, and invest in. A rich cultural environment is one of the key factors in attracting retaining the next generation of businesses and workers.
- 6. Do you support public investment in the creative economy? This includes arts, culture, heritage organizations and creative individuals.**
Yes



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Please explain your answer:

Public investment in the arts are key to enriching our quality of life and economic health. That's why I support the City's public art administrator position and our funding for Top of the Park and the community events fund.

7. If elected, what measureable action(s) will you take during your term to support public investment in our community's creative economy and support arts, culture, heritage organizations and businesses and creative individuals?

I will fight to continue the City's investment in the creative sector by pushing back against efforts to defund our arts administrator, ensure that capital projects look for opportunities to incorporate artistic elements, and continue to support City funding for the community events fund which supports local artistic endeavors such as FestiFools and Dancing in the Streets.

8. What is your position on public funding for arts and culture and, if elected, how will your position be reflected during the budget/planning process?

I support funding for arts and culture. In the past several budget cycles we have seen an attack on such funding, including most recently an effort to cut the budget for the arts administrator to a level at which the position would be ineffective. I have been and will continue to be a champion for funding this position.

9. If you support public funding for arts and culture, what do you think are the best means of allocating funds?

Line item appropriations
Inclusion of arts funding in capital programs

10. If elected, would you accept an invitation to become a member in an arts, culture and heritage caucus?

Yes

If yes, from which caucus would you accept an invitation?

Washtenaw County Caucus
