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Candidate's Full Name: Sabra Briere

Candidate's Street Address: 1418 Broadway St, Ann Arbor, MI 48105

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

Office Candidate Seeks: Ann Arbor City Council

District/Ward: Ward 1

Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Campaign Website: www.sabrabriere.org

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?

Festifools, various concerts, historic building tours, historic displays, museum tours, gallery 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?

I was a visual artist in high school, working with ceramics, jewelry making and print making (woodblocks, silkscreens). I designed and painted sets for school plays. I was on the debate team, traveling to different parts of the state. I learned that we can all see the world from different viewpoints and using different filters. I learned that we can all hear the same thing, but we listen to different parts.

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?

We all learn in different ways. And we all excel in different things. Eliminating exposure to instrumental music (creation and appreciation); vocal music (creation and appreciation); and all the various ways visual arts impact our lives doesn't cause dropouts, or prevent a student from preparing for college and work. But it severely limits the opportunity each student has - to explore new ideas, to excel at a specific skill, to learn more about others, and to engage in the hard task of practicing. And practicing - whichever skill one explores - teaches patience and perseverance, and growth.

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

Ann Arbor has a significant arts and cultural community. We can build on that and create more opportunities for its expression. By doing that, we promote: -Individual skills and interests. Many innovative scientists and entrepreneurs use their creativity in more than one way - they paint, they perform music, they participate in theatre, they write, they sing . . . and their engagement with the community creates an atmosphere in which more innovative thinkers feel welcome. -Community

engagement. A community with many activities and opportunities for all to create is one that opens its doors to ideas and people. Whether that's a tour of mid-century modern buildings, a lecture series at Kempf House or an art show at the Dancing Dog Gallery or a presentation of Elektra at West Park - each activity brings us together and encourages other activities. –Exciting events. Whether the event is expected to draw tourists or townies, each opportunity the community has to gather creates other opportunities for commerce (selling 'stuff', selling ideas and services, selling food and drink). And each of these things presents an opportunity for reinvestment in the community. So, individual fulfillment, community engagement, and welcoming the larger community - all of these offer ways to invest in our community. And each helps provide the yeast to make our community vital and interesting.

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 governmental funding should be available for specific types of uses (whether that's direct funding to artists and artist organizations, or indirect funding for staff support). For instance, I would like to see: 1. more (creation of) art in the park, with residents invited to make something (drawing, photo, painting, print, sculpture) during a 4-hour period at one of the parks. This would take staff time to organize, monitor, display, etc. 2. temporary art displays - whether student work or by seasoned professionals. 3. more music in the park - perhaps a 'bring your (non-amplified) music to xxx park and jam' type of event. 4. theatre on Main Street - close off main for one block, and perform for those at cafe tables. These (and other) types of events need not be financially expensive, but create an opportunity to foster and showcase the community and its creative spirit.

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 seek out opportunities to have the City engage in more temporary art displays. I will work with others to encourage more creative opportunities in our parks. I will make certain that each new and significant capital improvement project is considered for enhanced design and for opportunities to include art in the design. I will be open to others' ideas. And that last is most significant. Because no matter what I can do as an individual, it takes all of us to properly invest in and support arts.

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 providing small grants to arts and cultural organization to help defray the cost of concerts and events, and will continue - and potentially expand - this process. I will encourage broadening the City's impact by establishing temporary displays of visual art in City Hall and - if possible - in City parks. The current ordinance states that the City should include art and/or enhanced architectural features in new capital improvements, where possible and practical. I will encourage the staff to plan for art, and support well developed plans that result.

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.)
baked into new projects.

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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Candidate's Full Name: Stephen Kunselman

Candidate's Street Address: 2885 Butternut St., Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Candidate's E-mail Address: stephenkunselman@yahoo.com

Office Candidate Seeks: Ann Arbor City Council

District/Ward: Ward 3

Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Campaign Website: www.kunselmanforcouncil.com

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?

TOP, Art Fair, German 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?

Ceramics, fine arts, theatre arts. I continue to enjoy all the arts as an adult that I had been exposed to as a youth.

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?

Humanities and the arts are a vital component of a well-rounded educational experience.

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

The arts lend to the vitality of our community.

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 contributions towards the community cultural arts provide for a quality of life that makes living in Ann Arbor a desirable experience.

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?

Continue funding of the events fund to off set expenses associated with cultural art programs available to the general public.

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?

Utilizing the guidance of the Public Art Ordinance, ensure public art is a component of capital improvement planning and construction.

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

Line item appropriations

Tax based (millages, accommodations, sales etc.)

Line item appropriations include funding public art via capital improvement construction.

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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Candidate Survey

Candidate's Full Name: Jaime Magiera

Candidate's Street Address: 943 Dewey #3, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Candidate's E-mail Address: jaime@jaime4a2.org

Office Candidate Seeks: Ann Arbor City Council

District/Ward: Ward 4

Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Campaign Website: www.jaime4a2.org

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 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?

Ann Arbor Film Fest (Michigan Theater)

Top of the Park (Downtown Ann Arbor)

Several exhibits at the UM Museum of Art (Downtown Ann Arbor)

Fuzzfest (Blind Pig)

Various performances of my music and visual arts band Paradox Explorer at multiple venues

Various performances of Blue Snaggletooth, whom I present visual projections and films for, at multiple venues

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 K-12 education, I was exposed to several classes that had a profound impact on my life and greatly influenced the work that I do today. During the first four years of grade school, art was interwoven in most activities throughout the day. I remember often making felt cutouts of people that could be rearranged on a felt board. That inspired a desire to start working with animation - which I do today. In the sixth grade, I took an art class where the teacher not only demonstrated creating graphic arts, but she also discussed how color affected people's moods. This inspired a lifelong interest in the science of perception - which I've now explored in the visual, auditory and tactile realms. That knowledge has informed my artistic endeavors. Also, throughout grade school, we did lots of work with stencils. That inspired me to get into printmaking. In the 8th grade, I convinced a local bar owner to donate an old Gestetner Electrostatic print system to me. I used it to print up my own newspaper, which was distributed around school and to people in the community. That expanded into silk-screening and I now own a 4-color press. In high school, I took several art history classes which inspired an interest in architecture. Years later, I was able to enjoy this interest at an even deeper level when I was hired to format an architecture ebook for UM Alumnus Kurt Brandle. Overall, the arts are part of my livelihood. I should add that all of my art experience has

played a crucial role in the campaign, as all the buttons, shirts, signs and other promotional materials have been designed, and in some cases manufactured, by myself.

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 play a fundamental role in these areas. There is substantial research that art education contributes to overall learning and success in life by sharpening the mind and relaying abstract concepts. It can also be used to relay concepts in nature and science (discussed more below in my answer to another question). Art can be used directly to entice students to stay in school through its sheer energy and enjoyment. As a musician and sound engineer, I'm aware of the specific research which highlights the value music adds to learning and success in life. I'm also a collector of books and journals that deal with art and music learning and general arts theory. I often talk about this research on my radio show Interactive Technologies on WCBN FM each week. Technology itself is very much intertwined with art these days. The advent of the portable computer and the overall ease with which people can create and manipulate media, has given us a very wide pallet with which to express ourselves. These additional methods of expression can reach students who might not otherwise be reached. It can provide jobs to those who learn how to manipulate media - not just for entertainment, but a variety of other fields. Lastly, these additional methods of expression allow us to relay difficult concepts to improve empathy, thereby improving the way we treat each other overall as people (e.g. the use of animation and virtual reality simulations to demonstrate what it's like to be African American and/or a woman, to help relay biases and abuses in our society). This can have a profound impact in quality of life.

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

These things play a fundamental role in the economic growth and vitality of our community. As evidenced by the myriad of art fairs, gallery showings and music events in the county, our residents have a strong desire to attend and participate in the arts. In Ann Arbor in particular, the arts and culture scene is one of the primary reasons residents choose to live here. Ann Arbor is known for having a funky, quirky character - much of it defined by our artistic and cultural expression. If we wish to continue to grow economically, and maintain the quality of life we enjoy here, we must be sure we have a strong local arts community. The greater the variety of arts and culture, and the greater the opportunity for people to enjoy arts and culture, the more people will choose to live here and the more money they will spend into our economy.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer:

Yes. I believe public investment is absolutely necessary for the success of the creative economy and the overall quality of life of our citizens. At the most basic level, public investment in art and culture is democratizing. It ensures that art and culture are not only created at the behest of those who have lots of money. Likewise, public investment in art has been shown to be responsible for some of the most long-lasting art, from the great sculptures of Greece, to the Cathedrals (which were in fact often funded by the local governments) to our modern galleries. Lastly, public investment in art can lead to art in public spaces, including government facilities. This can help provide enjoyment and enlightenment in those spaces.

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?

Improving the local arts scene and creative economy is a central part of my platform. Ann Arbor has undergone several changes which have threatened the local arts community. Building rents have become prohibitively high for artists to be able to rent studio space. In addition, the high building rents have put many independent shops which sell the products of local artists out of business. Lastly, the Percent for Art program in Ann Arbor was dismantled in 2013, leaving a void in terms of civic art. The program had some flaws which may have led to its demise. I have several concrete solutions to revitalize our local arts community and creative economy.

- Solidify the city's Public Arts Administrator position as an official permanent position out of the general fund.
- Direct the PAA to work towards making public/private partnerships
- Direct the PAA to focus outreach efforts towards the local arts community for projects
- Direct the PAA to work towards a percentage of total projects (maybe 20%) to include science-based art (which could include installations in public utilities locations)
- Direct the PAA to search out public/private partnerships which would provide studio/rehearsal/performance space for painters, sculptors, musicians, etc.
- The Ann Arbor DDA recently announced that they were considering turning the first floor of the 4th & William Parking Structure into a small business incubator. They would rent out spaces to local businesses below market rate for two years, allowing the business to gain traction. I would work with the PAA and the DDA to get stores into those spaces which can sell the products of local artists.
- In general, I would use my name recognition as a member City Council to generate attention to the plight of local artists.

Explanation: The City of Ann Arbor Percent for Art program, which was recently discontinued, was well intentioned. It's something that other cities have tried. Having the money taken directly from the utilities made it an obvious target by some council members and residents. One aspect of it which was I feel important, but not fully realized, was the creation of projects which represent scientific principles behind our utilities. (My opponent Jack Eaton was critical of this, criticizing the idea of art which demonstrates principles such as water treatment). Another failing of the program was that it didn't successfully engage enough local artists. Many local artists didn't know about the RFPs. Lastly, our community has suffered greatly by a lack of space for area artists to practice their craft. Since the Tech Center closed, there has been a significant vacuum for art and music studio spaces in Ann Arbor. We've seen a few spaces pop up for brief periods of time (e.g. by the airport), but nothing has lasted. The cost of renting applicable building space is too high. This has contributed to a significant decrease in output of our local independent music and arts scene. It has also contributed to a limiting of the types of art and music that is available. There's a lot less challenging and experimental stuff out there. The above resolution would have addressed these concerns.

Background: I managed several art/music spaces within the Tech Center building, managed a building of art/music spaces and a club on Michigan Ave (what is now SPARK East) and have run several other recording studios in town (most notably, I had a space above what is now Bela Nina Spa on 4th Ave.) I've been a house sound engineer for the Blind Pig, Cavern/Gotham/Millennium/Circus, The Screaming Dog (which was owned by Amir of Amir's Deli and is now LIVE) and the Green Room in Ypsilanti (the building, which is over on Michigan Ave, is to this day still painted a deco

green color). I'm a musician, filmmaker and graphic/video artist. Being entrenched in that community, I'm aware of many local artists who have voiced a need to know about projects the city is undertaking and a need for space to practice their craft.

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?

Public funding is essential for the success of the arts community and our society as a whole. I would put forth resolutions to council to achieve the goals outlined. I would also continue my current work networking with artists in the community to understand their needs.

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