

In early August 2014, Delaware Arts Alliance (DAA) emailed a survey to all candidates in the upcoming Delaware elections (for whom valid email addresses could be obtained). Candidates were asked to state their positions on various legislative matters as they relate to the arts and arts education in Delaware. Presented below are all the responses received as of November 3.

Responses appear exactly as they were received, and have not been edited in any way. Candidate names, offices pursued, and party affiliations are based on how they appear in the [Statewide General Candidate Listing](#) in the Delaware.gov website as of November 3.

QUESTION #4: What specific ideas do you have for creating new revenue streams to fund arts and culture? If you have a specific example, please provide it.

Ayotte, Donald R. (State Representative, District 20 / Independent)

Non-governmental fundraisers should be promoted. Benefits for the arts have also been successful. In short, I believe that the creative should be only partially funded by the government and the rest should be funded by fundraising and private foundations.

Baumbach, Paul (State Representative, District 23 / Democrat)

I do not have a suggestion in this area at this time.

Bolden, Stephanie T. (State Representative, District 2 / Democrat)

Stipends, tax deductions, increase in funding for schools, colleges and institutions for those establishing programs of the arts. Teachers also.

Bonini, Colin (State Senator, District 16 / Republican)

I don't have any specific ideas at this time, but more than willing to discuss.

Briggs King, Ruth (State Representative, District 37 / Republican)

First, I would like to control the expenses of the arts created by some regulatory barriers. The cost of insurance, the cost of utilities, taxes on utilities, fees, etc. are all detrimental to arts programs that are on a shoestring budget. A "package" that would reduce these costs for the arts could be financially advantageous. Relying on donations and support is difficult during challenging economic times; therefore, a stronger economy will help in supporting the Arts. I would like to see certain items moved from the Grant in Aide program into a regular line item on the budget. I could consider a portion of gate admissions on events to go toward the Arts for the line item in the budget. Therefore, the arts are paying for the arts!

Bushweller, Brian J. (State Senator, District 17 / Democrat)

I believe advocates for the arts should increase their focus on private funding and donations, especially given the tight financial strictures facing state government these days. A great example is the Kent County Fund for the Arts, which endeavors to raise private funds which then go to local arts organizations to assist in their development. While government should endeavor to provide greater support, increased support from private donors is the perfect compliment.

Buttner, Sarah L. (State Senator, District 4 / Democrat)

I will certainly support the Governor and the General Assembly with arts funding, and look forward to any creative ideas your organization and others supply. I also recommend readily available energy audits. The University of Delaware offers these audits free of charge for non-profits. More information is available here:

<http://www.wdde.org/52580-energy-audit-program-extends-reach-nonprofits>.

Implementing energy efficiency measures can significantly reduce operating expenses with the same effect as increasing revenue.

Cole, George B. (Sussex County Council, District 4 / Republican)

open to suggestion....

Coons, Christopher A. (U.S. Senator / Democrat)

The arts bring us joy, as well as personal and cultural enrichment in a variety of ways. Research has shown that children who study the arts are more likely to be well rounded, more focused, and able to think more critically. We must continue to make sure that these experiences and opportunities are available for generations to come. Grants, as well as public-private partnerships, are great ways for the government to help spread access to the arts and humanities throughout communities all across the state and the country. I will continue to urge my colleagues to fully support the arts and humanities.

Denn, Matthew (Attorney General / Democrat)

The Attorney General is not directly involved in the state's budgeting process, and therefore does not have a direct role in arts funding. I believe the most important thing an Attorney General can do to support the arts financially is ensure that patrons feel safe coming out to enjoy the arts in our state. I also believe that part of the state's effort to improve public safety should include expanded after-school and summer programming for youth, and to the extent that arts can be incorporated into the curriculums of those programs, I think that would be beneficial both for the arts community and for the youth who participate.

Gallo, Jonathan (State Representative, District 30 / Democrat)

While I do not have specific ideas for creating new revenue streams, I am open and interested in looking at ways to better fund arts organizations. Grant-in-Aid is beneficial to many organizations, but I am supportive of looking at new ways to generate funding for these programs. I believe that a thorough conversation about this funding system with all involved would be a positive step in the right direction.

Henry, Margaret Rose (State Senator, District 2 / Democrat)

The Delaware Community Reinvestment Action Council is charged with the mission to ensure that the banks follow through with their obligation to put money back into the community. Identify the need and adopt it using these funds.

Howell, Glen M. (Representative, Levy Court District 6 / Republican)

I am not in favor of government withdrawing more money from the general public. It already takes far too much and wastes a good portion of it on red tape, rules and regulations. Van Gogh did not need governmental involvement. We don't either.

Hurd, Charles (Representative, Levy Court At-Large / Republican)

None, at this time. The specific art leagues have been having events to raise money and awareness and should continue to do so. They have my support.

Kittila, Theodore A. (Attorney General / Republican)

I would encourage more statewide access to arts. As a child growing up in Seaford, having an opportunity to come to Wilmington to see a play or to attend a concert lead to an appreciation of the arts. Now as an adult, I am willing to invest money to go to concerts, visit art museums, etc. This passing on of an appreciation of the arts to the next generation is critical to the survival of the arts. We need to keep a long view of arts investment.

Kozikowski, Michael E. (Recorder of Deeds, New Castle County / Democrat)

Another means for creating a revenue stream is by drafting an ordinance similar to the legislation created by the State of Delaware. Local governments and municipalities can create a fee to enhance the Arts through their legislative bodies.

Mackenzie, John (State Representative, District 22 / Democrat)

First, you have to maintain the old stuff. The DE Art Museum may well need additional public \$ to survive, and I have no problem with that. The Pyle/Wyeth and Arden traditions could be much bigger tourist draws with stronger promotion from the state Tourism Office. A strong old tradition creates a good foundation for a contemporary arts

community's new traditions. Support that with grants to artists and/or to venues where that art can be enjoyed. Economics professors like me classify art, music, etc. as "non-rival" (my consumption of it doesn't diminish yours) "free-rider" goods (hard to get people to pay for them). These goods are typically under-supplied without some kind of government support. I would be curious to hear what potential new revenue streams you might be thinking of.

McCorquodale, David A. (State Representative, District 21 / Green)

In the long run, the only realistic answer to any funding question is to tax the super-rich and the corporations. Currently, they are getting theirs at the expense of everyone else.

Newton, Steve (State Representative, District 22 / Libertarian)

The State of Delaware should pioneer the idea of providing tax credits to individuals for donations/investments in the arts.

Poppiti III, Ciro (Register of Wills, New Castle County / Democrat)

I wrote it above and I here repeat: I truly believe the following: EVERY elected official should sit on the board of at least one arts organization. As we all know, the board has a responsibility to achieve the goals of an organization. If every politician had a responsibility to help an arts organization, I guarantee that -- without raising one penny in taxes -- the arts movement in this state would flourish. Too easy.

Porter, Jeffrey (State Representative, District 12 / Democrat)

I don't come to the table with ideas for new revenue but I have an open mind and I am motivated to learn and champion ways to create new revenue streams.

Richardson, Bryant (State Senator, District 21 / Republican)

We have a successful arts gallery in Seaford. This is an example of what can be done when people with talent work together to the benefit of each other and the community. The satisfaction that members derive from the gallery are more important than a revenue stream. Nice, though, when they are rewarded for their efforts.

Snyder-Hall, R. Claire (State Senator, District 6 / Democrat)

Funding for the arts is not a matter of formulating new revenue streams, but rather fortifying the existing revenue streams to ensure their sustainability and to encourage both individuals and corporations to support the arts through donations, patronage, or any other number of venues currently utilized.

Tancredi, David (Recorder of Deeds, New Castle County / Republican)

One thing I'd like to see the county adopt is community participatory budgeting program. Participatory budgeting allows communities to be directly involved in how their tax dollars are spent. Working with local governments, an amount of funds are set aside specifically for the participatory budgeting program. The communities in the region form committees to propose projects in the area. Then an election is held to determine which projects go forward.

If such a program was in place, communities in the county could propose artistic and cultural projects to be voted upon. If the rest of the community approved the project, it would receive funding from the program budget. This could bring new opportunities for art projects in the county.

To learn more about participatory budgeting, visit www.participatorybudgeting.org

Warfield, Kim E. (State Senator, District 17 / Republican)

More fundraisers or government grants.