

STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14675

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name

Becky Drury

Candidate Website

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Candidate Email

Drurydistrict32@gmail.com

Office seeking:

State Representative

Party:

Republican

District:

32

Basic Arts Background of Candidate

Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?

- Vocal
- Visual

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

- Music
- Theater
- Dance
- Film/Media
- Attended a children's school performance

Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?

Yes

South Dakota Arts Council

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the

state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Moderately aware

DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota

Yes

Additional Comments:

I believe that ensuring students have access to a well-rounded education is crucial to making sure we build strong leaders for tomorrow.

Arts South Dakota

We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?

Our world is changing and keeping South Dakota strong is going to require future leaders that are innovators and bring the results we need for our communities. When it come to at-risk youth, it's great to have programs in place that can provide support to make sure all kids have a shot at success in our state.

We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?

I authored the resolution to certify the Star Quilt as the official quilt of South Dakota. This was a three pronged resolution. First, it recognized the importance of the Star Quilt in our Tribal communities. Second, it recognized the thousands of people who quilt in South Dakota. Third, it recognized the importance of art and creativity when sewing quilts.

Cultural development is important to our state. I believe if we can show the nation that there's something special to offer for everyone who wants to come to South Dakota, we can further our economy and build a culture-rich state for generations to come.

We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?

On all levels, I'm proud to have a record of supporting the arts. I've voted for things like the improvements to the USD National Music Museum, and look forward to examining similar opportunities based on the budgets we have in the coming years.

STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14619

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name

Erin Healy

Candidate Website

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Candidate Email

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Office seeking:

State Representative

Party:

Democrat

District:

10

Basic Arts Background of Candidate

Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?

- Instrumental

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Dance
- Photography
- Film/Media
- Literary Arts
- Attended a children's school performance

Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?

Yes

South Dakota Arts Council

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Very aware

DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota

Yes

Arts South Dakota

We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?

Art is so incredibly important for children--especially during their early development. I know there are so many benefits to introducing kids to art at an early age--it promotes creativity, helps to build fine motor skills, and even supports cognitive, social-emotional, and sensory skills.

We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?

We come from a state that is rich with history and cultural art. I think art plays a role in shaping (and even renewing) culture and is a way to express wisdom, knowledge, and experience. Art is often created to reflect on the past and to express hopes or aspirations. When I think of potential cultural development in South Dakota, I think we must ensure that all artists have the ability to flourish and to be celebrated regardless of culture, race, socio-economic status. When it comes to encouraging that development, I think we all need to embrace inclusion and opportunity for all.

We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?

I support any public funding for the arts at a local, state, or national level. The arts are an important community builder--and I think the arts can even be seen as an economic tool to encourage development and/or prosperity in a town/city. The arts/culture strongly benefit society--it's great to use for education, it helps with health and wellness (mental, emotional, and I think even physical health), and it encourages people to gather and spend time together as a community. I feel so lucky to live in Sioux Falls where there is always an event to attend where art/music is available for me and my family/friends to enjoy.

STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14565

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name

Mellissa Heermann

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Candidate Email

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Office seeking:

State Representative

Party:

Republican

District:

7

Basic Arts Background of Candidate

Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?

- Instrumental
- Vocal
- Theater
- Culinary Arts

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

- Music
- Theater
- Dance
- Film/Media
- Attended a children's school performance

Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?

Yes

South Dakota Arts Council

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Slightly aware

DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota

Maybe

Additional Comments:

While I have been a long supporter of the arts, it is difficult for me to make a financial decision without seeing the budget as a whole. I am looking forward to learning more about the great work of the South Dakota Arts Council.

Arts South Dakota

We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?

The arts are incredibly important for youth in education. It allows students to utilize different sides of their brain, expand their opportunities, be part of a team, have a feeling of belonging within the arts communities and a greater appreciation for beauty and the world around them.

We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?

The arts create a more rich and well rounded community and I have supported the arts in the different communities we have lived in. We enjoy bringing our family to plays, musicals, dance performances and live music, and we are spoiled in Brookings to have a lovely venue to be able to enjoy the arts.

We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?

During the last six years on the Brookings School Board, I have always supported the arts and music programs for our students. I have had many conversations around safeguarding the funds allocated to the arts programs and securing the future of the arts in the Brookings School District. This has been a consistent area of focus for me during every annual budget conversation.

We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make in regards to the arts in South Dakota. Please use the space below. With a reach of over 5,000 individuals, organizations and businesses, Arts South Dakota will share your responses with our statewide constituents in the Fall issue of Arts Alive, in our weekly e-newsletter, in our monthly column distributed to every weekly and daily newspaper in South Dakota, on our social media channels, and on our website:

In my youth, I grew up around music and fell in love with the sense of community within the music groups I participated in. I was very passionate about band, but also participated in choir, was the student director, many school musicals, and have taken lessons in the cello. There is something incredibly special about learning music, and the gift that it brings into your life and the lessons you learn can also translate into many other areas. My music teachers in the past have been a huge influence over me and all hold special places in my heart. I feel truly grateful for their lessons and inspiration. My oldest child is

now using my flute in marching band and finding a love of music all her own. There is just something special about the arts.

STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14496

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name

Margaret Kuipers

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Office seeking:

State Representative

Party:

Democrat

District:

11

Basic Arts Background of Candidate

Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?

- Vocal
- Photography

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

- Visual Arts
- Attended a children's school performance

Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?

Yes

South Dakota Arts Council

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Moderately aware

DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota

Yes

Arts South Dakota

We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?

I believe the arts education is important for all children, especially at risk youth, by helping them express themselves and their feelings in a unique and safe way. It can help them build confidence by learning a new skill such as learning to play an instrument, singing, or other medium such as creative writing, drawing, paint or sculpture.

We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?

I believe that the arts are important in our economic development and tourism. We have a beautiful state and depicting that in artistic ways help to promote tourism for SD.

My granddaughter participated in a SD Tourism Art Contest in High School. She painted a bison in some grass. It was representing the South Dakota Landscape. She is now a graduate of Southeast Technical College with a graphic arts degree and working as a news photographer.

We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?

The arts are a very important part of our communities, state and nation. Any and all forms of support should be encouraged, public and private.

STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14476

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name

Trish Ladner

Candidate Website

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Candidate Email

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Office seeking:

State Representative

Party:

Republican

District:

30

Basic Arts Background of Candidate

Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?

- Theater
- Photography
- Culinary Arts

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

- Theater
- Photography
- Attended a children's school performance
- Other

Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?

Yes

South Dakota Arts Council

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the

state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Very aware

DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota

Yes

Additional Comments:

I would support this if the monies generated are used solely to promote South Dakota arts.

Arts South Dakota

We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?

The arts are very important to the overall development of our children. Providing arts education programs help to develop fine motor skills, gross motor skills, non verbal and communication. In the case of theatre and music, the arts help to develop focus and perseverance.

We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?

Art is a bridge that helps to provide a deeper cultural connection to historic cultural elements and traditions. It teaches others about their cultural values through art, stories, jewelry, painting and poetry to name a few. In order to help promote cultural development in South Dakota, I'd like to see our artists and their art marketed in a way that not only educates others, but promotes the artists themselves.

We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?

I am in favor of including the public funding sources. With public participation, you have local buy-in and the support of the communities. In some cases, the public funds donated encourage the participation of the national, state and local government entities.

We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make in regards to the arts in South Dakota. Please use the space below. With a reach of over 5,000 individuals, organizations and businesses, Arts South Dakota will share your responses with our statewide constituents in the Fall issue of Arts Alive, in our weekly e-newsletter, in our monthly column distributed to every weekly and daily newspaper in South Dakota, on our social media channels, and on our website:

Thank you for your dedication and for support the Arts in South Dakota!

STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14495

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name

Gary Leighton

Candidate Website

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Office seeking:

State Representative

Party:

Democrat

District:

2

Basic Arts Background of Candidate

Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?

- Theater
- Film/Media
- Literary Arts

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

- Music
- Theater
- Film/Media
- Literary Arts
- Attended a children's school performance

Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?

Yes

South Dakota Arts Council

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize

the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Moderately aware

DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota

Yes

Additional Comments:

With my background and career in K-12 education, I have an in-depth understanding in the role the arts play in enhancing a student's education and appreciation of the our society and culture. I fully support the work of the SD Arts Council.

Arts South Dakota

We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?

Fully educating the students of our state requires much more than basic education in reading, writing and math. All activities including the fine arts is as much a need to students in completing their education as is other activities such as athletics. Motivating children to learn is enhanced by interest and involvement in the fine arts.

We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?

Because of the geographic vastness of our state and the concentration of the population in and around the state's two major cities, large parts of the state are lacking in the availability of fine arts activities. Great potential exists for developing fine arts. People will attend these activities and come from all over the state and region in their support. Prairie Rep. Theater at SDSU is an outstanding example of this.

We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?

I believe there is a role in government to earmark public funds to support the arts much as some public funding is made available to use by South Dakota Public Broadcasting. Arts should be supported at all levels of government.

STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 15830

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name

John Mogen

Candidate Email

mogentunes@yahoo.com

Office seeking:

State Representative

Party:

Republican

District:

10

Basic Arts Background of Candidate

Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?

- Instrumental
- Vocal
- Theater
- Photography

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Dance
- Photography
- Attended a children's school performance

Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?

Yes

South Dakota Arts Council

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Very aware

DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota

Yes

Additional Comments:

I am a board member on the South Dakota Arts Council. We do (and hopefully will continue) to receive state funding.

Arts South Dakota

We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?

The Arts are critical components of a well-rounded education.

We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?

South Dakota's potential for embracing the arts on a large scale is infinite. The Arts are thriving in our state, and should only increase that involvement.

We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?

The public support is a large component of both our state and our country.

We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make in regards to the arts in South Dakota. Please use the space below. With a reach of over 5,000 individuals, organizations and businesses, Arts South Dakota will share your responses with our statewide constituents in the Fall issue of Arts Alive, in our weekly e-newsletter, in our monthly column distributed to every weekly and daily newspaper in South Dakota, on our social media channels, and on our website:

I was born into a family where the arts were important. We all learned to play the piano from our Grandma Mogen, sang in both school and church choirs, sing with our family at public events, played in the school band, and we all continued to be involved in music (and theater) in college. Two of us became professional musicians.

The arts are my HEART!

STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14772

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name

Kay Nikolas

Candidate Email

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Office seeking:

State Representative

Party:

Democrat

District:

1

Basic Arts Background of Candidate

Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?

- Vocal
- Visual

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

- Music
- Visual Arts
- Dance

Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?

Yes

South Dakota Arts Council

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Very aware

DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and

generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota

Yes

Arts South Dakota

We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?

I think that STEM education should really be STEAM education - Arts are an important avenue for learning and expression for everyone - children and adults. The arts are a means of fostering communication and growth of people and communities. Children learn in different ways and the arts open up an avenue for further learning and growth.

We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?

The arts provide an opportunity to learn about others in the community - their history, values, and the way these values are expressed and passed on to future generations. In learning about other cultural influences, we often learn that we have more in common than what we may have believed and that there are various ways to express and celebrate those commonalities.

We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?

The arts provide all of us with a means of understanding the world and communities around us. All of us benefit from the contributions from the arts - young, old, rich and poor. Public funding to encourage this resource for the development of our communities is vital.

STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14701

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name

Kim Parke

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Office seeking:

State Representative

Party:

Democrat

District:

11

Basic Arts Background of Candidate

Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?

- Instrumental
- Visual
- Photography

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

- Theater
- Attended a children's school performance

Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?

Yes

South Dakota Arts Council

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Very aware

DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota

Yes

Arts South Dakota

We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?

While math, science and english are the backbones of education, arts education is also important because it provides opportunities for self growth, self awareness and appreciation of diversity. Studies have shown that students achievement and well being are associated with a well rounded education including arts programs. I strongly support the arts for all students in public education.

We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?

Native American traditions have gained awareness and acceptance through arts programs in recent years. Community playhouses are essential to providing access to theater productions for everyone. South Dakota has a unique and vibrant history that should be highlighted through the arts. This, in turn, helps economic growth through tourism and education.

We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?

South Dakota is conservative in nature, especially in terms of economics. But I believe in supporting the arts as long as the programs are logical, feasible and beneficial to the state and its people.

STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14458

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name

Carl Perry

Candidate Website

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Candidate Email

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Office seeking:

State Representative

Party:

Republican

District:

3

Basic Arts Background of Candidate

Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?

- Vocal
- Theater

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

- Music
- Theater

Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?

Yes

South Dakota Arts Council

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Moderately aware

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Yes

Additional Comments:

Keep me posted of your needs and bills.

Arts South Dakota

We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?

This is one of the important parts of youth to participate.

We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?

Music, theater, sculpture, paintings are all important to our local and state.

We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?

I am not part of the national but am part of the states process. I support local efforts.

We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make in regards to the arts in South Dakota. Please use the space below. With a reach of over 5,000 individuals, organizations and businesses, Arts South Dakota will share your responses with our statewide constituents in the Fall issue of Arts Alive, in our weekly e-newsletter, in our monthly column distributed to every weekly and daily newspaper in South Dakota, on our social media channels, and on our website:

Be sure to contact Senator and Representatives that are primary winners with no general ...like Brandei Schaeftbauer in District 3.

STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14532

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name

Neal Pinnow

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Candidate Email

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Office seeking:

State Representative

Party:

Republican

District:

28B

Basic Arts Background of Candidate

Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?

- Instrumental
- Vocal

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

- Music
- Photography
- Attended a children's school performance

Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?

Yes

South Dakota Arts Council

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Very aware

DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota

Yes

Arts South Dakota

We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?

I believe that providing the arts to the education of the youth in South Dakota is vital to the overall educational advancement. The arts provide many avenues for life lessons to be learned by our youth. As a former musician and vocalist in elementary, high school and college, I was afforded to be part of the arts and am a better, well rounded individual due to that education. I will support advancements in arts education for all residents of South Dakota.

We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?

We have many different cultures in South Dakota and I would like to see those available for the education and enjoyment in all our communities. As Mayor of Lemmon, we were able to bring several artists to our public library through matching grants through the SD Arts Council. Those events were fabulous for our youth as well as many adults and I would encourage that every community in South Dakota takes advantage of the artists available for cultural development. We are very blessed with all the talented artists and must continue to support their development.

We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?

I think public funding should be used as an avenue to assist communities the opportunity to bring cultural development to their city. Public funding should be used in conjunction with matching funds from either the local or national level. Communities need to be vested in to the education and cultural development of their residents and the SD Arts Council does a great job of helping bridge the artist and the communities together and as a legislator I will continue to support that effort.

STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 15099

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name

Erin Royer

Candidate Website

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Candidate Email

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Office seeking:

State Representative

Party:

Democrat

District:

12

Basic Arts Background of Candidate

Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?

- Instrumental
- Theater

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

- Music
- Photography
- Literary Arts
- Attended a children's school performance

Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?

Yes

South Dakota Arts Council

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Moderately aware

DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota

Yes

Arts South Dakota

We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?

Arts are an important creative skills, community building space, and a way to apply lessons from other subjects. Having the arts in schools and available to children is important to their growth, development, and mental well being.

We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?

SD has a rich history of arts including home crafts, traditional Native American arts, contemporary arts, and handicrafts. I would support programs to encourage participation in the arts as well as promotion of the arts of South Dakota to both SD audiences and visitors. There are so many things that we may not always recognize as "arts" that so many of us participate in routinely.

We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?

The arts are an important part of national, state, and local cultures and societies and should be supported by those communities through public funding.

STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14806

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name

Brandei Schaeftbauer

Candidate Email

brandei4sdhouse@gmail.com

Office seeking:

State Representative

Party:

Republican

District:

3

Basic Arts Background of Candidate

Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?

- Instrumental
- Vocal
- Literary Arts
- Other

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

- Music
- Theater
- Dance
- Attended a children's school performance

Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?

Undecided

South Dakota Arts Council

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Slightly aware

DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota

Yes

Arts South Dakota

We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?

I believe if a child has the opportunity to explore the arts as well as athletic activities, that child could possibly be given the opportunity to open other "doors" that might have been closed or unknown.

We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?

I believe the arts can bring other parts of the world to our hometowns. Arts bring other perspectives, cultures and imaginations that one might not be given the opportunity to experience on a daily basis by where that person chooses to reside.

We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?

I am ok with public funding to promote our state of South Dakota and the towns in South Dakota through the arts if the state has the money set aside to do so.

We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make in regards to the arts in South Dakota. Please use the space below. With a reach of over 5,000 individuals, organizations and businesses, Arts South Dakota will share your responses with our statewide constituents in the Fall issue of Arts Alive, in our weekly e-newsletter, in our monthly column distributed to every weekly and daily newspaper in South Dakota, on our social media channels, and on our website:

Arts open up pathways to the world and beyond. Giving students the opportunity to explore the arts also offers other avenues of interests that one didn't know existed. Arts tell history, perspective and show beauty that otherwise one might never get to experience.

STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14752

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name

Christine Stephenson

Candidate Website

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Candidate Email

christine@christinefords.com

Office seeking:

State Representative

Party:

Democrat

District:

32

Basic Arts Background of Candidate

Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?

- Theater

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Culinary Arts
- Attended a children's school performance

Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?

Yes

South Dakota Arts Council

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Very aware

DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota

Yes

Arts South Dakota

We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?

Extremely important. Especially in Rapid City, too many kids are dropping out of high school the minute it becomes a possibility. They are succumbing to addiction and crime, and we are seeing the consequences with increased violence among young adults. I believe it's because many of these young people don't see a place for themselves in our school system, and that may partially because we don't have sufficient arts education in our schools.

We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?

I would love to see arts-based tourism develop on our reservations to promote cultural understanding and awareness as well as to promote economic growth in those areas.

We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?

I believe public funding for the arts at the local, state and national level is vital to our communities. The arts deepen our understanding and appreciation of the human experience. In our multi-cultural society, the arts help us understand each other and connect as community members. Now more than ever, we need as many people as possible to experience the arts.

STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14516

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name

Mike Stevens

Candidate Email

attymike07@gmail.com

Office seeking:

State Representative

Party:

Republican

District:

18

Basic Arts Background of Candidate

Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?

- Instrumental
- Vocal
- Visual

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Dance

Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?

Yes

South Dakota Arts Council

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Very aware

DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota

Yes

Arts South Dakota

We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?

I believe it is not only necessary but essential for our children. As a former school board member and a current legislator, I have always supported the arts and was recently inducted into the Yankton High School Fine Arts Hall of Fame as a result of my support for the arts.

We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?

I think that process begins by recognizing the arts as an equal contributor to the success of our state. I think the words of former President John F. Kennedy said it best when he said: "I look forward to an America which will reward achievement in the arts as we reward achievement in business or statecraft,"

We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?

The State spends money to help building sports stadiums; to encourage hunting and other outdoor sports; as well as many other activities. The arts should be treated equally.

STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 15404

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name

Tamara StJohn

Candidate Email

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Office seeking:

State Representative

Party:

Republican

District:

1

Basic Arts Background of Candidate

Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?

- Other

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Dance
- Photography
- Film/Media

Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?

Yes

South Dakota Arts Council

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Very aware

DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota

Yes

Arts South Dakota

We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?

Arts are a unique way of impacting all persons from various walks of life. The value of learning more about the world around them is critical and shaping their future roles in many different ways.

We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?

I'm a huge advocate for tourism and as a curator of a large Native American arts collection it's my goal to share the messages the paintings and arts can provide to people who visit our communities. Sustainable tourism is a part of a great vision for any region and it can provide financial benefits and economic development for many.

We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?

I believe the arts are a vital part of who we are and how we interact in South Dakota. I will continue to be a huge advocate for supporting the arts with funding and other resources

STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14563

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name

Tyler Tordsen

Candidate Website

<https://TylerTordsen.com>

Candidate Email

Tyler@tylertordsen.com

Office seeking:

State Representative

Party:

Republican

District:

14

Basic Arts Background of Candidate

Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?

- Photography
- Film/Media
- Other

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Photography
- Film/Media
- Other

Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?

Yes

South Dakota Arts Council

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Very aware

DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota

Yes

Arts South Dakota

We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?

Very important.

We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?

There is a lot of potential for more cultural development, arts, and tourism in South Dakota. I'd like to see more growth in partnerships such as the South Dakota Native Tourism Alliance (SDNTA), a partnership of tribal, state, federal, and local stakeholders.

We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?

I think there is a supportive role national, state, tribal, and local governments can play in promoting arts.

We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make in regards to the arts in South Dakota. Please use the space below. With a reach of over 5,000 individuals, organizations and businesses, Arts South Dakota will share your responses with our statewide constituents in the Fall issue of Arts Alive, in our weekly e-newsletter, in our monthly column distributed to every weekly and daily newspaper in South Dakota, on our social media channels, and on our website:

Thanks for all you do in promoting Arts across South Dakota! - T

STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14758

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name

Vince Vidal

Candidate Website

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Candidate Email

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Office seeking:

State Representative

Party:

Democrat

District:

33

Basic Arts Background of Candidate

Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?

- Instrumental
- Vocal
- Theater
- Photography
- Film/Media
- Literary Arts

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Film/Media
- Attended a children's school performance

Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?

Yes

South Dakota Arts Council

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Very aware

DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota

Yes

Additional Comments:

First off, as you pointed out, art is a solid economic investment. It always has been. Tourism is South Dakota's second largest industry – and when we provide talented local artists with the funds to create, visitors will want to come to South Dakota to see that art. Your statistic shows that investment in the arts repays itself tenfold. But it's about more than just the economy. Most of all, arts funding is an investment in our community. It's about investing in our neighbors who want to share their talents with the world and make our homes more vibrant and colorful. Creating and consuming art enriches our lives and makes for a happier, healthier public.

Arts South Dakota

We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?

The purpose of education isn't just to prepare students to enter the workforce – it's also about providing them with the tools and knowledge necessary to become flourishing, well-rounded members of society. Arts education is vital to this role. I'm the proud parent of two artists myself – a musician and an actor/playwright – so I know firsthand the value that arts education can bring to a young person's development. Unfortunately, as South Dakota public schools continue to go underfunded, the arts are usually the first to go – especially in underserved communities. This is a travesty. The arts provide an outlet for young people to express themselves in a constructive way and connect with their own community. Access to this type of creative learning should be free and open to ALL South Dakota students – not just those who can afford it.

We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?

Continuing off of the previous answer, one of the most important ways to foster cultural development in South Dakota is to teach and encourage the next generation of artists. It's also important to promote the styles and artforms unique to our area – art that celebrates our stories, our beautiful landscapes, and, particularly, indigenous art. It is an unfortunate fact of American and South Dakotan history, that our Native peoples have long been subjected to efforts to strip tribes of their culture – their languages, religions and artistic contributions. It is of the utmost importance that the South Dakota government take an active role in promoting the work of our indigenous artists, and work to preserve the artforms and cultural contributions of area tribes for generations to come.

We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?

Over the course of the last few questions, I've demonstrated the importance of the arts to the well-being of our people and our communities. The purpose of taxpayer funds is to allow the government to provide essential services – education, safe roads,

a strong military, etc. And I would argue that the arts are just as essential. Many government services aim to protect our country, ensure our survival, and maintain our way of life. But what good is all of that, if we're unable to take part in the beauty, self-expression and sense of community that the arts provide? I'd argue that the arts are essential to the public's quality of life and should be funded as such, at all levels of government.

We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make in regards to the arts in South Dakota. Please use the space below. With a reach of over 5,000 individuals, organizations and businesses, Arts South Dakota will share your responses with our statewide constituents in the Fall issue of Arts Alive, in our weekly e-newsletter, in our monthly column distributed to every weekly and daily newspaper in South Dakota, on our social media channels, and on our website:

The arts are such an important part of my life and my family's lives. If elected and sent to Pierre I will be a very strong advocate of the arts in all forms, including teaching our children the importance of the arts in their daily lives.

Thank you so much for your time and the opportunity to share my thoughts through this survey.

STATE CANDIDATES SURVEY ON THE ARTS AND GOVERNMENT : Entry # 14515

BASIC CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name

Kadyn Wittman

Candidate Website

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Candidate Email

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Office seeking:

State Representative

Party:

Democrat

District:

15

Basic Arts Background of Candidate

Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts?

- Instrumental
- Vocal
- Theater

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

- Music
- Theater
- Visual Arts
- Dance
- Film/Media
- Literary Arts
- Attended a children's school performance

Do you believe all South Dakotans should have access to the arts in their community?

Yes

South Dakota Arts Council

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the South Dakota Arts Council (SDAC) – whose purpose is to recognize the importance of creativity in the lives of all South Dakotans, the Council makes quality arts accessible throughout the state by providing encouragement, grants, services and information to artists, arts organizations, schools and the public?

Very aware

DO YOU BELIEVE THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARTS COUNCIL, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, SHOULD RECEIVE STATE FUNDING? Matching funds received from the National Endowment for the Arts benefited all South Dakotans and generated \$21.00 for every \$1 invested by the state of South Dakota

Yes

Arts South Dakota

We believe arts education stimulates creativity, communications and learning, and that arts education is an essential tool for reaching youth at risk. HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE ARTS TO THE EDUCATION OF ALL SOUTH DAKOTA CHILDREN?

Involvement in the arts is crucial for the success of South Dakota children. Years of research shows that integrating arts into public school leads to high levels of academic achievement, social and emotional development, civic engagement, and equitable opportunities - all things that we want for our state's children. Additionally, studies show that involvement in the arts is correlated with elevated understanding of math, reading, cognitive ability, critical thinking, and verbal skill. Arts learning can also be linked to improved motivation, concentration, confidence, and teamwork in children.

We believe the arts are an intrinsic part of the well-being of our communities, and that the arts play an important role in economic development and tourism. WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE POTENTIAL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA, AND HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE THAT DEVELOPMENT?

I see an opportunity to engage with more of our indigenous community members to support and uphold historical and traditional art forms. In particular, I would like to see more indigenous arts (taught by indigenous instructors) incorporated into all South Dakota public schools.

We seek the support and endorsement of individuals, businesses and government. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THE ROLE OF PUBLIC FUNDING FOR THE ARTS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL?

As a state legislator, I will always advocate for the support and expansion of arts in our public schools, as well as be a vocal champion for public funding of our arts institutions.