

2013 Washtenaw County Primary Candidate Arts & Culture Survey

Administered by The Arts Alliance, a nonpartisan, 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

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**Candidate's Full Name:** Julie Grand  
**City, Township, State, etc.:** Ann Arbor  
**Position s/he is running for:** City Council  
**Jurisdiction:** Ward 3  
**Party Affiliation:** Democrat

**In regards to art, culture and heritage do you consider yourself any of the following** (*options included: 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; I do not consume, support, practice or participate in any in arts, culture or heritage activities.*):

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.

**What arts, cultural or heritage activities have you and/or your family members attended, participated in or supported in the past year? Please indicate location too.**

My first grade daughter performed in her first Burns Park Players show this past year, where I volunteered to provide child care. For the last two years, I have also volunteered at Burns Park Elementary as an "Art Angel" assisting in my daughter's art classroom. My family looks forward to attending various local festivals, such as Top of the Park, FestiFools, and the Townie Street Party. I also attended what I hope will be the inaugural Ann Arbor in Concert performance at the Michigan Theater.

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

I was a dancer from kindergarten through my senior year in college. My final performance was part of an outreach program to elementary students

in the Philadelphia Public Schools. I also performed in musical theater, serving as a choreographer in college.

These experiences had a significant impact on my life. I taught dance to younger children, working as a helper while still in elementary school. I was able to help build a dance program in high school from the ground up, which provided opportunities for a creative physical outlet as well as leadership. My family's support of creative pursuits also influenced my brother to become a middle school art teacher.

**Why do you or do you not support public investment in the creative economy that includes arts, culture, heritage and creative individuals?**

I support public investment in the arts because it contributes to the quality of life and economic vitality of our City. When evaluating location options, businesses and individuals look to the creative economy as an important metric of a city's vitality. We are so fortunate to live in a community with both an established and emerging creative economy and need to promote its growth.

**If elected, what measurable action(s) will you take during your term to make public investments in our community's creative economy and support arts, culture, heritage organizations and creative individuals?**

Public art projects, particularly with larger budgets, have been the target of a great deal of criticism in this community. Constraints tied to funding sources, overall budget cuts to core services, and limited public engagement have not helped public art's cause. I believe that we can bring back support for public art by selecting smaller budget projects that are in accessible locations, include a more robust public engagement process, and promote greater outreach to local artists. I'm also in support of exploring private-public partnerships to fund art, as well as providing funding for temporary art and festivals.

The changes to the Percent for Art ordinance did not provide the Ann Arbor Public Art Commission (AAPAC) with clear guidelines for the future of publically funded art. However, I view this ambiguity as an opportunity for AAPAC to make significant improvements. For example, I currently sit on the selection committee for the last Percent for Art funded project at the Argo Cascades. I have worked with John Kotarski (AAPAC) and Cheryl Saam (canoe liveries) to re-write the script for public engagement. These changes may ultimately benefit our ability to make public investments in art.

**If you support public funding for arts and culture, what do you think are the best means of allocating funds?** *(Options included: line item appropriations; appropriations distributed via grant programs; tax based*

*(millages, accommodations, sales etc.); Percent for Art/Culture ordinances; I do not support public investment in arts, culture and/or heritage; other.)*

Line item appropriations  
Appropriations distributed via grant programs

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

While I am a supporter of the arts, I would like to learn more about the arts, culture and heritage caucus prior to committing to join.

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Candidate's Full Name: John Eaton
City, Township, State, etc.: Ann Arbor
Position s/he is running for: City Council
Jurisdiction: Ward 4
Party Affiliation: Democrat

In regards to art, culture and heritage do you consider yourself any of the following *(options included: 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; I do not consume, support, practice or participate in any in arts, culture or heritage activities.):*

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.

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

I have attended live music performances, such as a concert by guitarists Rodrigo y Gabriela (Royal Oak).
My wife and I visited the Art Institute of Chicago.
I have taken family members to the University of Michigan Museum of Art on a couple of occasions in the last year.
My wife and I attended music performances at the Top of the Park events.
(Running for office has occupied time I might otherwise have spent enjoying cultural events.)

cultural events.)

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

My early education and my middle school education both included music and art instruction. I believe that the recent cut backs in arts and music curriculum in our schools is inexcusable. A well-rounded education should include cultural education.

Why do you or do you not support public investment in the creative economy that includes arts, culture, heritage and creative individuals?

I support public investment in art that reflects the community. I am disappointed that the City has failed to procure art from our local arts community. At a minimum, publicly funded art should have some connection to the community or reflect some unique aspect about the community.

I am happy that we support local art fairs and cultural events. These are part of the special character of our town that we need to promote and protect.

If elected, what measurable action(s) will you take during your term to make public investments in our community's creative economy and support arts, culture, heritage organizations and creative individuals?

I will seek ways to fund art that allow the City to prefer local art. I believe that we can form public private partnerships (like was used to preserve the Michigan Theater) to finance projects by local artists. I would pursue the idea that some large capital projects should have art included ("baked-in") from the inception.

If you support public funding for arts and culture, what do you think are the best means of allocating funds? *(Options included: line item appropriations; appropriations distributed via grant programs; tax based (millages, accommodations, sales etc.); Percent for Art/Culture ordinances; I do not support public investment in arts, culture and/or heritage; other.)*

Baked-in; public-private partnerships.

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

Yes

