

Arts and Culture Candidate Questionnaire 2019 City of Savannah Local Elections

Created as a collaborative effort between:

Rob Hessler, Executive Director, Bigger Pie Arts Advocacy

Patrick Kelsey, Executive Director, Arts and Cultural Alliance of Chatham
County

Kristopher Monroe, Vice-Chair Savannah-Chatham Historic Site & Monument
Commission

Gretchen Hilmers, Social Media Coordinator, ARC Savannah

Peter Roberts, Location Gallery

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Introduction

Thank you for your commitment to supporting Arts and Culture in Savannah and beyond! This questionnaire, a collaboration between Bigger Pie Arts Advocacy, the Arts and Culture Alliance of Chatham County, Americans for the Arts' Arts Action Fund, ArtsGeorgia, and other arts and culture organizations and independent artists, is designed to give you the opportunity to inform the community about where you stand on issues important to this large constituency.

Responses received will be collected, compiled, and shared with voters to educate them about your arts and culture platform or position. It is respectfully requested that you return your response no later than **October 8th** to give the local arts and culture community time to provide helpful feedback, and to give you plenty of time to address any questions or concerns that may arise.

Publication and promotion of your response will begin with the start of early voting period through Election Day.

We know your time is valuable and appreciate your efforts to inform the arts and culture community of your positions.

If you have questions, please direct them to me, Rob Hessler, at this email or feel free to call me at 213-454-1363.

With gratitude,

Rob Hessler, Executive Director, Bigger Pie Arts Advocacy
Patrick Kelsey, Executive Director, Arts and Cultural Alliance of Chatham County
Kristopher Monroe, Vice-Chair Savannah-Chatham Historic Site & Monument Commission
Gretchen Hilmers, Social Media Coordinator, ARC Savannah
Peter Roberts, Location Gallery

Co-signers

- Dare Dukes, Executive Director, Deep Center**
- Patt Gunn, The Center for Jubilee, Reconciliation & Healing**
- Jerome Meadows, Internationally Recognized Artist**
- Gale Steves, ARC Savannah**
- Suzanne Jackson, Artist**
- Clinton Edminster, Chairman, Starlandia Foundation**
- Philip Davis, The Indigos**
- Rachel Reese, Curator**

- Lillian Grant-Baptiste, Transformational Speaker & Master Storyteller
- Molly Lieberman, Loop It Up
- Susan Laney, Laney Contemporary
- William Kwamena-Poh, Artist
- Coco Papy, Community Organizer
- Brea Cali, Andraka Cali
- Sam Williams, Cedar House Gallery
- Laiken Love - Singer/Performer
- Sulfur Studios
- Carmen Aguirre, Director, Grand Bohemian Gallery
- Leslie Lovell, Gallery Director, Roots Up
- Kareem McMichael, Karmac Productions
- Tiffani Taylor, Tiffani Taylor Gallery and Savannah Art Walk
- Beth Logan, Hospice Gallery
- Odd Lot Improv
- Savannah Shakes
- Dana Richardson, Kobo Gallery
- Brian MacGregor, Owner, Gallery at City Market
- Tatiana Von Tauber, Owner, The Studio School
- Molly Hayden, Columnist, Art Scene: Savannah Morning News
- Rachael Flora, Connect Savannah's Community Editor and Art Beat columnist
- Amy Condon, The Refinery, A Writing Studio
- Bay Street Theater
- Front Porch Improv

Definitions:

Arts and Culture includes, but is not limited to, museums and collections (historical society, museums, zoos, and botanical), performing arts (music, dance, theater), visual arts (painting, drawing, sculpture, textile arts, photography, services, and crafts), festivals & fairs, public art programs, arts education programs, arts centers, and other arts-related services and facilities.

Enterprise is defined as a sole proprietorship or any small business with one employee or more formed as either a for-profit or a not-for-profit.

Industry is defined as all arts and culture enterprises.

1. Please enter your name and contact information below

Name

Email Address

Phone Number

2. How many arts and culture-related activities have you attended, participated in, or otherwise supported in the last year?

- Music Festival or performance
- Theater performance
- Dance
- Art exhibition
- Arts festival or fair
- Art auction for charity
- Arts Education Class
- Viewed public artwork such as murals or sculptures
- Other (please specify)

3. Other tourist driven cities that are similar in size to Savannah have implemented plans that strengthen their cultural communities. Do you have a plan to help grow and strengthen the arts and cultural fabric of Savannah?

4. Public-private partnerships with arts and culture enterprises have been a necessary means to keep arts and culture within communities, but this model is not reliable or sustainable.

If elected, what programs would you help enact to shift this paradigm?

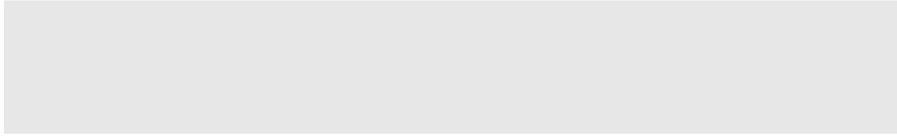
- 1% of new private development or redevelopment dedicated to implementing arts and cultural activities
- Allowing vacant city properties to be used by artists
- Incorporation of public art in new government funded projects
- Development of an arts and culture overlay district
- Initiatives to create and foster a visual arts festival in Savannah
- Other, please specify

5. Industries such as retail, manufacturing, tourism, etc. are offered business development and retention incentives. Should arts and culture enterprises receive the same access to the government funded resources; promotional funds, services, direct funding, investments; as well?

- Yes
- No

Other comments

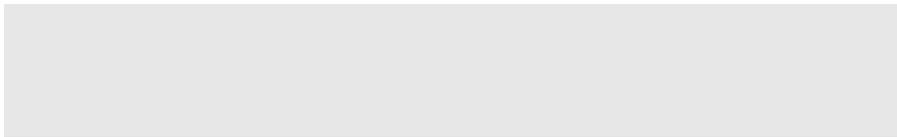
6. What is your position of not-for-profit arts and culture enterprises, inclusive of all-volunteer enterprises, being provided government services, incentives, funding, and investments?

A large, solid grey rectangular box used to redact the answer to question 6.

7. Even when municipalities have functional, robust funding plans for arts and culture, too often the bulk of funding is directed to large institutions rather than to a diverse pool of recipients representing the whole community. What is your plan to ensure an equitable distribution of revenue and other resources to arts and culture organizations and individual artists?

A large, solid grey rectangular box used to redact the answer to question 7.

8. What message do you want to share about why you are the best candidate for arts and culture in Savannah?

A large, solid grey rectangular box used to redact the answer to question 8.

Mayoral Candidate
Eddie DeLoach

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: DeLoach (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 08, 2019 12:10:15 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 08, 2019 11:09:54 PM
Time Spent: 10:59:38
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: Introduction

Q1 Please enter your name and contact information below

Name	Mayor Eddie W. DeLoach
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Phone Number	[REDACTED]

Q2 How many arts and culture-related activities have you attended, participated in, or otherwise supported in the last year?

- Music Festival or performance,**
- Theater performance,**
- Dance,**
- Art exhibition,**
- Arts festival or fair** ,
- Arts Education Class,**
- Viewed public artwork such as murals or sculptures**

Q3 Other tourist driven cities that are similar in size to Savannah have implemented plans that strengthen their cultural communities. Do you have a plan to help grow and strengthen the arts and cultural fabric of Savannah?

Without a doubt, the arts play an essential role in the character of the city of Savannah – from the artists who bring our public spaces to life with their craft, to our musicians who bring throngs of crowds to our theatres, to the SCAD students who call our city home. Under my administration, the City of Savannah has put a renewed focus on investment in the arts community – transitioning the arts community from a peripheral consideration to a cornerstone of future development. Under the 2033 Strategic Plan – crafted under my leadership – the City of Savannah has made arts funding and arts support a dedicated feature of our growth. On top of pledging to support local arts events like the Savannah Music Festival, Picnic in the Park, and Telfair Art in Our Neighborhoods – our city has also explicitly spelled out its support of groups like the Savannah Ballet and Savannah Philharmonic. Outside of event and organization funding, the City is also committed to long-term investment in arts instruction for our young people and adults alike, through programs at the Deep Center. I'm also proud to have completed projects like the Savannah Cultural Arts Center, and other spaces designed to foster interest in the arts.

Q4 Public-private partnerships with arts and culture enterprises have been a necessary means to keep arts and culture within communities, but this model is not reliable or sustainable. If elected, what programs would you help enact to shift this paradigm?

Allowing vacant city properties to be used by artists

Incorporation of public art in new government funded projects

Development of an arts and culture overlay district

Initiatives to create and foster a visual arts festival in Savannah

Q5 Industries such as retail, manufacturing, tourism, etc. are offered business development and retention incentives. Should arts and culture enterprises receive the same access to the government funded resources; promotional funds, services, direct funding, investments; as well?

Yes,

Other comments:

The City of Savannah is proud to partner with local arts groups to offer significant financial support for events that enrich our community for locals and visitors alike. On top of this direct investment, the City works with the state to offer tax incentives for major arts/production industries such as the film and television industry – and we're committed to advocating for those variety of credits to make Savannah a national destination for arts production and incubation.

Q6 What is your position of not-for-profit arts and culture enterprises, inclusive of all-volunteer enterprises, being provided government services, incentives, funding, and investments?

As Mayor, I have always been willing to consider the financial requests of every arts group – regardless of tax filing status. Like any for-profit arts group, our not-for-profits often play an important cultural role in enriching our communities and I am happy to consider the funding requests and needs of any group working to invest in our community through the arts.

Q7 Even when municipalities have functional, robust funding plans for arts and culture, too often the bulk of funding is directed to large institutions rather than to a diverse pool of recipients representing the whole community. What is your plan to ensure an equitable distribution of revenue and other resources to arts and culture organizations and individual artists?

. While our Council and City Manager are tasked with considering funding requests from the community, I believe that we need a dedicated Arts Commission to help the Council make fully educated decisions about taxpayer investment in the arts. With a dedicated group of people working to represent the interests of the arts community to Council, we'll be able to deliver a better product to our taxpayers and arts community alike – for the best value.

Q8 What message do you want to share about why you are the best candidate for arts and culture in Savannah?

On top of simply promising funding to the arts, or finishing construction on buildings like the Cultural Arts Center, I'm proud to have moved our city toward more active participation with local arts organizations, so that the arts community is a partner in and feature of our future growth. Thanks to my work, the City of Savannah has a long-term plan with arts support baked-in as a key feature. Our more active and willing role in the arts community is just a start, but over the next four years, I look forward to working alongside community stakeholders to better hear their concerns and work more closely to integrate the needs of artists with the growth of our community.

Mayoral Candidate
Louis Wilson

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Wilson (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 04, 2019 10:48:40 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 04, 2019 10:56:17 AM
Time Spent: 00:07:37
IP Address: [Redacted]

Page 1: Introduction

Q1 Please enter your name and contact information below

Name **Louis Wilson**
 Email Address [Redacted]
 Phone Number [Redacted]

Q2 How many arts and culture-related activities have you attended, participated in, or otherwise supported in the last year?

Music Festival or performance,
Art exhibition,
Viewed public artwork such as murals or sculptures

Q3 Other tourist driven cities that are similar in size to Savannah have implemented plans that strengthen their cultural communities. Do you have a plan to help grow and strengthen the arts and cultural fabric of Savannah?

Open to collaboration.

Q4 Public-private partnerships with arts and culture enterprises have been a necessary means to keep arts and culture within communities, but this model is not reliable or sustainable. If elected, what programs would you help enact to shift this paradigm?

Allowing vacant city properties to be used by artists
Incorporation of public art in new government funded projects
Initiatives to create and foster a visual arts festival in Savannah

Q5 Industries such as retail, manufacturing, tourism, etc. are offered business development and retention incentives. Should arts and culture enterprises receive the same access to the government funded resources; promotional funds, services, direct funding, investments; as well?

Yes

Q6 What is your position of not-for-profit arts and culture enterprises, inclusive of all-volunteer enterprises, being provided government services, incentives, funding, and investments?

Would be interested in looking at a concise proposal.

Q7 Even when municipalities have functional, robust funding plans for arts and culture, too often the bulk of funding is directed to large institutions rather than to a diverse pool of recipients representing the whole community. What is your plan to ensure an equitable distribution of revenue and other resources to arts and culture organizations and individual artists?

Diverse collaboration is necessary to insure fairness.

Q8 What message do you want to share about why you are the best candidate for arts and culture in Savannah?

I tell the truth..

Mayoral Candidate
Regina Thomas

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Regina (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 07, 2019 11:24:55 AM
Last Modified: Monday, October 07, 2019 11:39:33 AM
Time Spent: 00:14:38
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: Introduction

Q1 Please enter your name and contact information below

Name **Regina D Thomas**
 Email Address [REDACTED]
 Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q2 How many arts and culture-related activities have you attended, participated in, or otherwise supported in the last year? **Art exhibition**

Q3 Other tourist driven cities that are similar in size to Savannah have implemented plans that strengthen their cultural communities. Do you have a plan to help grow and strengthen the arts and cultural fabric of Savannah?

For the time being, I would not change anything. Whatever the City is allocating to the Arts Program I would leave in place. However; we also have a fiscal responsibility to the residents of Savannah. Once a forensic Audit is completed, we will have a better feel for how much we can increase/allocate for the Arts Programs.

Q4 Public-private partnerships with arts and culture enterprises have been a necessary means to keep arts and culture within communities, but this model is not reliable or sustainable. If elected, what programs would you help enact to shift this paradigm? **Allowing vacant city properties to be used by artists**

Q5 Industries such as retail, manufacturing, tourism, etc. are offered business development and retention incentives. Should arts and culture enterprises receive the same access to the government funded resources; promotional funds, services, direct funding, investments; as well? **Other comments:**
 Once again this should be done on an as need basis. We must prioritize. Cutting nothing or adding any new resources until we know where and how our tax dollars are used/be it either federal/state.

Q6 What is your position of not-for-profit arts and culture enterprises, inclusive of all-volunteer enterprises, being provided government services, incentives, funding, and investments?

I do not have any opposition to this.

Q7 Even when municipalities have functional, robust funding plans for arts and culture, too often the bulk of funding is directed to large institutions rather than to a diverse pool of recipients representing the whole community. What is your plan to ensure an equitable distribution of revenue and other resources to arts and culture organizations and individual artists?

All will be given the same opportunities - naturally the smaller venues/organizations receive less. We need to level the playing field- by not just focusing on the larger organizations or the ones that have been in existence the longest.

Q8 What message do you want to share about why you are the best candidate for arts and culture in Savannah?

Arts stimulates the mind - it gives way to creativity. It is beautiful to look at, enjoyable to participate in and it adds so much culture and beauty to any City or building. We are fortunate to have such a large art community here in Savannah. It adds to the ambience of Historic Savannah. I can assure you that if I am elected, no funding will be cut and when the budget allows we can increase the efforts from the City to make sure that others that would like to be involved can be.

Mayoral Candidate
Van Johnson

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Johnson (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, October 03, 2019 5:18:35 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 03, 2019 5:35:54 PM
Time Spent: 00:17:18
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: Introduction

Q1 Please enter your name and contact information below

Name **Van R. Johnson, II**
 Email Address [REDACTED]
 Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q2 How many arts and culture-related activities have you attended, participated in, or otherwise supported in the last year?

Music Festival or performance,
Theater performance,
Dance,
Art exhibition,
Arts festival or fair,
Art auction for charity,
Viewed public artwork such as murals or sculptures

Q3 Other tourist driven cities that are similar in size to Savannah have implemented plans that strengthen their cultural communities. Do you have a plan to help grow and strengthen the arts and cultural fabric of Savannah?

My plan is to empower the arts and cultural communities to work with the City to develop their own plan that promotes collaboration, cross pollination, inclusion and expansion of the cultural fabric to the entire community.

Q4 Public-private partnerships with arts and culture enterprises have been a necessary means to keep arts and culture within communities, but this model is not reliable or sustainable. If elected, what programs would you help enact to shift this paradigm?

Other, please specify:

If elected, I am willing to lead the work with the Council, City bureaucracy and the arts and cultural community to develop a plan that works best for Savannah and to consider all of the programs suggested. While I am supportive of the majority of the initiatives listed, It is important to note that no singular member of Council can enact these initiatives without the support of the majority of Council. My elected record shows my strong support for arts and culture in Savannah.

Q5 Industries such as retail, manufacturing, tourism, etc. are offered business development and retention incentives. Should arts and culture enterprises receive the same access to the government funded resources; promotional funds, services, direct funding, investments; as well?

Yes,

Other comments:

I believe this should be explored and considered.

Q6 What is your position of not-for-profit arts and culture enterprises, inclusive of all-volunteer enterprises, being provided government services, incentives, funding, and investments?

The City of Savannah currently provides substantial funding to not-for-profit arts and culture enterprises I believe that the remainder should be considered. The record will show that I have actively advocated for these types of initiatives in the past, even as the current Administration was cutting these enterprises.

Q7 Even when municipalities have functional, robust funding plans for arts and culture, too often the bulk of funding is directed to large institutions rather than to a diverse pool of recipients representing the whole community. What is your plan to ensure an equitable distribution of revenue and other resources to arts and culture organizations and individual artists?

My plan is to work with the City Council, City Staff and the arts and culture community to develop a funding plan that provides a equitable and diverse mix that includes large, medium, and small not-for-profit organizations.

Q8 What message do you want to share about why you are the best candidate for arts and culture in Savannah?

As a professional musician of over 35 years and as a firm supporter of arts and culture, I have consistently demonstrated solid and unyielding support for arts and culture in Savannah. This support became more evident during the current Administration, where I have stood in the gap and vigorously fought cuts to arts and cultural organizations in Savannah. In addition, I remain the most approachable and accessible member of Council and when I become Mayor, I will be the most approachable and accessible Mayor for the arts and cultural community.

District 1 Candidate
Bernetta Lanier

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Lanier (Web Link)
Started: Friday, October 04, 2019 8:28:16 AM
Last Modified: Friday, October 04, 2019 9:48:32 AM
Time Spent: 01:20:16
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: Introduction

Q1 Please enter your name and contact information below

Name **Bernetta Lanier**
 Email Address [REDACTED]
 Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q2 How many arts and culture-related activities have you attended, participated in, or otherwise supported in the last year?

- Music Festival or performance,**
- Theater performance,**
- Dance,**
- Arts festival or fair ,**
- Art auction for charity ,**
- Viewed public artwork such as murals or sculptures**

Q3 Other tourist driven cities that are similar in size to Savannah have implemented plans that strengthen their cultural communities. Do you have a plan to help grow and strengthen the arts and cultural fabric of Savannah?

I have been involved in arts and cultural events in the Greater Westside of Savannah for many years. Just last year we conducted the first "Weeping Time Cultural Arts Festival". The flagship festival was well attended and received. We actually have a partnership with the Augusta Arts Council. I have also attended and supported many arts events throughout Savannah. I support and recognize the outstanding people and work in our local Savannah arts community. Although I do not have a comprehensive arts plan, I agree that Savannah needs one. I support this effort and look forward to the opportunity to galvanize our local arts community assets and work towards establishing our comprehensive culture and arts plan.

Q4 Public-private partnerships with arts and culture enterprises have been a necessary means to keep arts and culture within communities, but this model is not reliable or sustainable. If elected, what programs would you help enact to shift this paradigm?

Allowing vacant city properties to be used by artists

Incorporation of public art in new government funded projects

Initiatives to create and foster a visual arts festival in Savannah

Other, please specify:

If I didn't check one of the initiatives above, it is because it requires more detailed study to make the best decision that would positively impact the local arts community. In researching resilient and sustainable arts communities around the country, there are numerous best practice initiatives. I anticipate implementing a community benefits strategy that will allow local art and culture supporters to negotiate with City leaders and developers for community arts benefits.

Q5 Industries such as retail, manufacturing, tourism, etc. are offered business development and retention incentives. Should arts and culture enterprises receive the same access to the government funded resources; promotional funds, services, direct funding, investments; as well?

Yes,

Other comments:

I propose that our City adopt a Community Benefits Strategy. A Community Benefits Strategy would provide an opportunity for citizens to negotiate for community benefits. Art and culture initiatives are valuable and enriching community benefits.

Q6 What is your position of not-for-profit arts and culture enterprises, inclusive of all-volunteer enterprises, being provided government services, incentives, funding, and investments?

I support such initiatives. I believe with the right, supportive, policies in place, not-for-profit arts and culture enterprises could be sustainable. Such initiatives can be designed to be economic engines.

Q7 Even when municipalities have functional, robust funding plans for arts and culture, too often the bulk of funding is directed to large institutions rather than to a diverse pool of recipients representing the whole community. What is your plan to ensure an equitable distribution of revenue and other resources to arts and culture organizations and individual artists?

With my Community Benefits Strategy Plan, all art and culture community stakeholders will have a opportunity to be at the table. Impacted citizens from the arts and culture community will have an equitable opportunity to create and design policy and access funding. Creative citizens will also have an opportunity to identify new revenue sources for art and culture.

Q8 What message do you want to share about why you are the best candidate for arts and culture in Savannah?

I am an active supporter and participant of arts and cultural initiatives in Savannah. I work with youth who dance and act out cultural and historical events. We have not received any support from local government. Our City have not supported the arts and cultural community in a comprehensive way. I am the candidate that is introducing and promoting a strategy for the next Council that will be more inclusive. The Savannah Community Benefits Strategy will re-establish citizens as the primary civic stakeholder. It engages citizens more in participating in decisions and the direction of their government. It is a participatory and collaborative approach. It is designed to empower citizens and create a more equitable civic landscape. A Community Benefits Ordinance is vital to this strategic approach, to achieve equity and parity, even in the arts. I love the arts and look forward to taking my well known advocacy to City Hall in support of, and in collaboration with, the arts community in Savannah.

District 1 Candidate
Peter Pannizzo

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Pannizzo (Web Link)
Started: Sunday, September 29, 2019 5:16:35 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, September 29, 2019 5:24:05 PM
Time Spent: 00:07:29
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: Introduction

Q1 Please enter your name and contact information below

Name **peter Pannizzo**
 Email Address [REDACTED]
 Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q2 How many arts and culture-related activities have you attended, participated in, or otherwise supported in the last year?

Music Festival or performance,
Theater performance,
Art exhibition,
Arts festival or fair ,
Viewed public artwork such as murals or sculptures

Q3 Other tourist driven cities that are similar in size to Savannah have implemented plans that strengthen their cultural communities. Do you have a plan to help grow and strengthen the arts and cultural fabric of Savannah?

yes as stated many other Cities similar to Savannah size have big cultural and art driven celebration. because of Savannahs weather we can do these events year round.

Q4 Public-private partnerships with arts and culture enterprises have been a necessary means to keep arts and culture within communities, but this model is not reliable or sustainable. If elected, what programs would you help enact to shift this paradigm?

Allowing vacant city properties to be used by artists ,
Incorporation of public art in new government funded projects
 ,
Initiatives to create and foster a visual arts festival in Savannah

Q5 Industries such as retail, manufacturing, tourism, etc. are offered business development and retention incentives. Should arts and culture enterprises receive the same access to the government funded resources; promotional funds, services, direct funding, investments; as well?

Yes,

Other comments:

such programs generate jobs and revenue for the city so they should have incentives just like any other service that does the same

Q6 What is your position of not-for-profit arts and culture enterprises, inclusive of all-volunteer enterprises, being provided government services, incentives, funding, and investments?

I think this is a great idea. as long as it is available to all citizens of the city and easy access to those living in the lower income areas.

Q7 Even when municipalities have functional, robust funding plans for arts and culture, too often the bulk of funding is directed to large institutions rather than to a diverse pool of recipients representing the whole community. What is your plan to ensure an equitable distribution of revenue and other resources to arts and culture organizations and individual artists?

I will rather it go to smaller organizations or artist because the bigger institutions usually get larger donations from the outside sources.

Q8 What message do you want to share about why you are the best candidate for arts and culture in Savannah?

I went to Art Institute of Philadelphia for Graphic design. even though it is not the career I chose I still have a passion and a love for it. I think this city can do amazing things with open ideas to culture and art as a main stay.

District 2 Candidate
Bill Durrence

October 3, 2019

Supporting the Arts

Rob, et al:

Thank you for inviting me to participate in your survey to gauge my level of support for arts and culture. I am happy to try to answer what is a very broad question in the paragraphs that follow, but I will not fill out the flawed survey you provided. The phrasing of some of the questions was overly simplistic and showed a misunderstanding of the nature of government funding in general. In the real world, there are very few yes or no answers. Obviously, you can choose to share this as you like, but I have added recipients whose email addresses I have and will be posting this on my social media.

I support the concepts of public art (however funded) and some public funding of the arts. The execution of those ideas, though, has real world constraints. Artwork to be displayed in the public spaces of a community cannot be overtly offensive. Of course, beauty, and offense, is in the eye of the beholder, and limiting how edgy public work can be may have a neutering effect in some cases, but there is plenty of good work that does not offend. Also, practically speaking, if you press the limits of community sensitivities enough, there will be no willingness to allow public art.

As for public funding, the bottom line is, literally, the budget. Currently the City of Savannah provides annual cultural arts grants of around three quarters of a million dollars.

In 2018 those grants supported such recipients as:

- The Coastal Jazz Festival, 30,000 participants;
 - Deep Center Literacy Programming, 2,140 participants;
 - Live Oak Public Libraries "School that Author" program, 12,000 participants;
 - Savannah Ballet Theater: "The Nutcracker", 4,800 participants;
 - Savannah Music Festival, 56,000 participants;
 - Savannah Philharmonic: "Picnic in the Park" and "Philharmonic in the Streetz", 21,850 participants;
 - Savannah State "Black Heritage Festival", 23,800 participants;
 - Telfair Museum: "Art in our Neighborhoods", 125,000 participants;
- and more.

I support that effort and would like to increase the amount, but that will be difficult. The City's expenses are growing faster than its revenues and just continuing at the current level will be challenging in the next few years.

I believe the requirements we have for the grants are appropriate to Council's fiscal responsibility to the tax paying citizens of the City:

That there be specific deliverables to the community;

That our funds are not used for general operations support;

That there be accountability for the funds;

That our funding be matched by other sources as evidence the community believes the event or project is worthwhile:

That the benefits of the project benefit primarily residents of the City of Savannah rather than the regional population.

Specifically, in terms of not providing operating support for a business, I don't believe the City should be in the practice of picking winners and losers, whether it's a shoe store or an art gallery.

You have suggested that the current model of Public-Private Partnerships (P3) is not sustainable and that the City should create a dedicated funding source for the arts. The Police Department, Fire and Rescue, street paving, stormwater/flooding management, and Greenscapes do NOT have dedicated funding and must compete in the annual budget decisions. It is fiscally naïve to think the arts should be exempt from that exercise.

If you were able to convince a Council to create a dedicated fund, no Council can legally bind a future Council. That fund could be easily eliminated by the next round of elections. In fact, P3s are the only long-term sustainable model. It is only through the private support of the arts that you will convince elected officials of the viability, and positive perceptions, of providing public, supplemental funding.

You also suggested a Visual Arts Festival for Savannah and I like that idea, but like the Film Festival, and the Music Festival, it will need a parent organization to promote and operate it. That is not a business for the City to be in. I do think that would be the sort of new programming the City should support and think that all our grant funding should be prioritized more to well vetted nascent organizations and programs.

Other ways the City already supports the arts:

Our new \$25 million Cultural Arts Center, with a variety of workshop options, film society presentations bi-weekly, a gallery for exhibitions, and a dance studio and almost 500-seat auditorium for events;

\$165 million for a new state of the arts Arena, adaptable for events from 9500 attendees to just a couple of thousand, end-stage or in-the-round configurations for a variety of performers/performances, and with the ability to do the kind of demanding rigging a show like Cirque du Soleil requires, not possible in our current, antiquated arena. This facility should lend itself to a variety of visual arts displays as well;

Facilitating organizations fundraising with alternative efforts such as letters of support we send with various grant proposals they make to agencies such as the National Endowment for the Arts;

Facilitating cultural events with street closures, barricades, additional policing efforts, and staff time involved in arranging those events. While some permits are required and fees paid, those fees do not cover the costs of that support.

There are more things we can do, and I would start with making our regulations for murals easier to use. I was in Rio de Janeiro last spring and loved the extensive mural displays in the Santa Teresa area of the city. There are parts of Savannah where that seems an appropriate activity.

A couple of the questions on your survey need much more information. You asked about arts organizations getting the same incentives for development as other industries and you mentioned specifically retail, manufacturing, and tourism.

The only business development incentives that the City offers are property tax abatements if a new business opens in one of several specified locations. Those abatements can be for 10 years and require a level of investment to qualify, but that is the only criteria. There would be no distinction between a restaurant, a manufacturer, an artist's studio, or a gallery.

As for tourism businesses, they mostly pay us. Each adult on a tour pays a \$1 fee that is used by the City to maintain areas impacted by touring, and hotel guests pay a 6% lodging tax that is divided with about half coming to the City (around \$11 million annually, which goes into our General Fund for various operating expenses) and the rest to Visit Savannah and the Convention Center. Those proportions are established by the General Assembly.

You suggest the City should have the "board of tourism" market Savannah as an arts and culture destination; nice idea (much better than the bachelorette parties), but the City does not have a board of tourism. The City's Tourism Advisory Committee (TAC) includes representatives from various stakeholder groups to advise on management of the regulatory aspects of tourism in the City. The appropriate agency to talk to about marketing concepts is Visit Savannah, a division of the Chamber of Commerce.

There is also a local rental car fee that has been used to supplement the funding for the Civic Center and in the future will be used to fund the balance of capital costs for the Arena to avoid using General Fund tax revenue for that project.

You also asked arts groups be provided the same government services as others, and I believe in that kind of equity, but you don't indicate what services others have that you don't.

You asked about the possibility of using City owned vacant lots for free or a small fee. I don't think we have much inventory of vacant lots except FEMA lots, purchased because of flooding issue and those lots have strict usage restrictions from FEMA. Also, any activity on City property creates a liability for the City, so any use of that property would probably require the user to indemnify the City against any and all liabilities, an insurance policy that could make the use of that property much less affordable. With consideration for those issues, I would be supportive of this idea.

The booklet you attached to make the point about the economic value of the arts was unnecessary in my case. Your survey asked why I think I'm the best candidate, at least relative to your issues, and I believe it's because I am a creative and a supporter of the arts. I spent over 50 years in a career as a photographer, and I understand, far better than my opponent, the ups and downs of trying to make a living that way. I also understand the limits of the City's resources better than he does and will not make you any empty promises about things the City cannot afford to do.

I think that booklet shows how strong the arts community is in Savannah, at least partly because of the support that the City has provided, and even more so because of the entrepreneurial efforts of the creative class here. That's what really grows the arts. You mentioned the new galleries and other activities developed in the last few years.

Otherwise the booklet was more of a negative for me. The methodology for arriving at numbers seems questionable. It purports, repeatedly, to be about arts economics in the City of Savannah, but in several places, it talks about numbers from Chatham County. To use County revenue numbers as reason why Savannah should spend to support the arts begs the question—what have you asked from the County Commission or the other 7 municipalities? The figures you quote were apparently derived from those areas as well. And when you talk about all the artists who derive an income and spend here, how many of them live outside the city limits of Savannah?

These questions matter because too many people keep coming to the City of Savannah to solve regional issues from homelessness to arts and social agency funding. That's an undue burden on the City's taxpayers, and if you want to have a serious conversation about funding anything, you must start by not equating the City of Savannah and Chatham County.

bd

District 2 Candidate
Detric Leggett

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Detric (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 01, 2019 4:36:50 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 01, 2019 4:52:36 PM
Time Spent: 00:15:46
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: Introduction

Q1 Please enter your name and contact information below

Name **Detric Leggett**
 Email Address [REDACTED]
 Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q2 How many arts and culture-related activities have you attended, participated in, or otherwise supported in the last year?

Music Festival or performance,
Theater performance,
Dance,
Art exhibition

Q3 Other tourist driven cities that are similar in size to Savannah have implemented plans that strengthen their cultural communities. Do you have a plan to help grow and strengthen the arts and cultural fabric of Savannah?

Yes I do..

I would love to incorporate the dancing arts in our community and highlight it with visual arts as well as paint to enliven the entire District.

Q4 Public-private partnerships with arts and culture enterprises have been a necessary means to keep arts and culture within communities, but this model is not reliable or sustainable. If elected, what programs would you help enact to shift this paradigm?

Allowing vacant city properties to be used by artists ,
Incorporation of public art in new government funded projects
 ,
Development of an arts and culture overlay district ,
Initiatives to create and foster a visual arts festival in Savannah
 ,
 Other, please specify:
 I think all of these are great.

Q5 Industries such as retail, manufacturing, tourism, etc. are offered business development and retention incentives. Should arts and culture enterprises receive the same access to the government funded resources; promotional funds, services, direct funding, investments; as well?

Yes,

Other comments:

If we can encourage a partnership between all sides of the community to chip in their share we can go much further.

Q6 What is your position of not-for-profit arts and culture enterprises, inclusive of all-volunteer enterprises, being provided government services, incentives, funding, and investments?

I believe it's friends helping friends not helping the community. Again, I'm for funding any arts program that would help our community.

Q7 Even when municipalities have functional, robust funding plans for arts and culture, too often the bulk of funding is directed to large institutions rather than to a diverse pool of recipients representing the whole community. What is your plan to ensure an equitable distribution of revenue and other resources to arts and culture organizations and individual artists?

I am a grassroots organizer. And I know the challenges of not having funds allocated in our direction. I along with people like Linda wilder Bryan, savannah youth city, save our youth Savannah I understand and it's a plan in place to produce funds.

Q8 What message do you want to share about why you are the best candidate for arts and culture in Savannah?

Every person has a back for an art. As your alderman I would love to help pull that artistic quiet person out and allow them to scream.

District 3 Candidate
John Hall

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Hall (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 02, 2019 8:57:05 AM
Last Modified: Wednesday, October 02, 2019 9:43:40 AM
Time Spent: 00:46:35
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: Introduction

Q1 Please enter your name and contact information below

Name **John E Hall**
 Email Address [REDACTED]
 Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q2 How many arts and culture-related activities have you attended, participated in, or otherwise supported in the last year?

Music Festival or performance,
Theater performance,
Art exhibition,
Viewed public artwork such as murals or sculptures
 Other (please specify):
 Various art and music venues at SCAD

Q3 Other tourist driven cities that are similar in size to Savannah have implemented plans that strengthen their cultural communities. Do you have a plan to help grow and strengthen the arts and cultural fabric of Savannah?

I voted for our new Arena to be built so that all sizes of Art and Cultural Events can be invited to our city for the enjoyment and education of our residents as well as tourists. I push to support our non-profit arts groups because they provide Savannahians with inspiration and creative outlets that benefit all of us. I want more public art venues because they reach out to our common humanity and provide a spiritual backdrop to the physical bricks and mortar we live around. I think the city government working in collaboration with the Arts Council and funding them generously is the best way forward.

Q4 Public-private partnerships with arts and culture enterprises have been a necessary means to keep arts and culture within communities, but this model is not reliable or sustainable. If elected, what programs would you help enact to shift this paradigm?

Allowing vacant city properties to be used by artists

Incorporation of public art in new government funded projects

Initiatives to create and foster a visual arts festival in Savannah

Other, please specify:

I want to see more arts programs and festivals in our local neighborhoods. Art plays an important role in bringing communities together and provides social and cultural value to the everyday lives of our citizens. The Savannah Philharmonic has done much to invigorate several of my 3rd district neighborhoods to the delight of its residents. I also want to encourage more forms of art education in our inner city schools through city and school board initiatives.

Q5 Industries such as retail, manufacturing, tourism, etc. are offered business development and retention incentives. Should arts and culture enterprises receive the same access to the government funded resources; promotional funds, services, direct funding, investments; as well?

Yes,

Other comments:

My goal is to continually upgrade the quality of life of my constituents as well as all of our city and county residents. Arts and cultural events such as festivals, dances, storytelling, and music revitalize our aging communities and provide energy to our efforts. I think the City can do much to increase funding for these pursuits through use of incentives with city contracts.

Q6 What is your position of not-for-profit arts and culture enterprises, inclusive of all-volunteer enterprises, being provided government services, incentives, funding, and investments?

As I previously stated, I think city government can use incentives to encourage those who wish to do business with our city to invest in our arts community. While I think the details should be left up to the Arts Council and its organizations, I think the effort would be hugely successful and supported by the public. We need Art in all its forms to continue to enjoy a thriving Savannah. Tying major development contracts to Arts funding is a positive way to ensure sustainability. The County and School District could also help to raise substantial funding in this way.

Q7 Even when municipalities have functional, robust funding plans for arts and culture, too often the bulk of funding is directed to large institutions rather than to a diverse pool of recipients representing the whole community. What is your plan to ensure an equitable distribution of revenue and other resources to arts and culture organizations and individual artists?

I think non-profits and small business enterprises should be able to receive a piece of the pie provided vigorous standards are met as delineated by an

Arts board made up of diverse representatives. There would have to be a defined process to provide fair and equitable funding to a plethora of art venues coupled with a level of transparency. I would like to include as many parts of the art community as possible.

Q8 What message do you want to share about why you are the best candidate for arts and culture in Savannah?

I believe I am the best candidate for arts and culture in Savannah because I see the connection between a strong arts involvement and the revitalization of the aging neighborhoods in my district. I want to develop a deeper sense of community among the eighteen different communities that comprise District 3; I am determined that these diverse neighborhoods, diverse in age, race, educational attainment and cultural norms, all have the chance to thrive economically and spiritually.

I think bringing more of the Arts and Cultural events to these disparate groups is a necessary part of my governance and that I am its most vocal advocate.

Addendum

John Hall <John.Hall@sccpss.com>
to me ▾

Wed, Oct 2, 8:27 PM (4 days ago) ☆ ↶ ⋮

Dear Rob,

I wanted to add one additional comment that I forgot to mention with my survey answers.

In addition to tourists, many residents from other municipalities in Chatham County come to Savannah for Arts entertainment. Every one of those cities and towns should be assisting the Arts community with sustained funding. If everyone who receives the benefit of arts programs contributes even a modest amount our entire region can thrive.

District 3 Candidate
Linda Wilder-Bryan

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Wilder (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 01, 2019 2:44:51 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 01, 2019 3:16:23 PM
Time Spent: 00:31:32
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: Introduction

Q1 Please enter your name and contact information below

Name Linda Wilder Bryan
Email Address [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q2 How many arts and culture-related activities have you attended, participated in, or otherwise supported in the last year?

Music Festival or performance,
Theater performance,
Dance,
Art exhibition,
Arts festival or fair ,
Art auction for charity ,
Arts Education Class,
Viewed public artwork such as murals or sculptures ,
 Other (please specify):

I have travelled out of the state and country to enjoy arts and other cultures and would like to adopt programs that are working in other cities that have folks wanting and thirsty for ART, music and spaces to teach young folks and old alike to see other art

Q3 Other tourist driven cities that are similar in size to Savannah have implemented plans that strengthen their cultural communities. Do you have a plan to help grow and strengthen the arts and cultural fabric of Savannah?

Yes to use impact fees that we don't have in place so that tax payers don't bare the burden to defray the cost of funding the arts and programs that help change the quality of life for the citizens in this community.

Q4 Public-private partnerships with arts and culture enterprises have been a necessary means to keep arts and culture within communities, but this model is not reliable or sustainable. If elected, what programs would you help enact to shift this paradigm?

1% of new private development or redevelopment dedicated to implementing arts and cultural activities

Allowing vacant city properties to be used by artists

Incorporation of public art in new government funded projects

Development of an arts and culture overlay district

Initiatives to create and foster a visual arts festival in Savannah

Other, please specify:

Make sure we use the policy's that are already in place to vote for things for the people first and make art and use vacant property for kids and the elderly!

Q5 Industries such as retail, manufacturing, tourism, etc. are offered business development and retention incentives. Should arts and culture enterprises receive the same access to the government funded resources; promotional funds, services, direct funding, investments; as well?

Yes,

Other comments:

The arts play a vital part in our community I will always support ANYTHING that supports OUR neighborhoods in all parts of the city.

Q6 What is your position of not-for-profit arts and culture enterprises, inclusive of all-volunteer enterprises, being provided government services, incentives, funding, and investments?

They work in silos I would like and plan when I'm elected to make sure we get some SYNERGY for the people in this beautiful city using our money to streamline the fat so more people can be better served and those resources reach as many citizens as possible.

Q7 Even when municipalities have functional, robust funding plans for arts and culture, too often the bulk of funding is directed to large institutions rather than to a diverse pool of recipients representing the whole community. What is your plan to ensure an equitable distribution of revenue and other resources to arts and culture organizations and individual artists?

We need to make it easier for more folks who are actually are working in the community to get some of the money to the process is to hard to navigate and not user friendly.

Q8 What message do you want to share about why you are the best candidate for arts and culture in Savannah?

I am a current Arts Commissioner and I am so into making sure that we use this program as a hook to get the citizens in this community engaged and loving what I currently have experienced first hand as a Arts Commissioner and citizen music art and all that they encompass gives our people especially ALL children a opportunity to express themselves so they are busy and productive. I want all kids to experience the love of arts and expressing what they have in their hearts and heads so they are not in the streets and can a place of peace and refuge so they are not in the streets being a menace to society. I will always be in the five that supports the ARTS and finds solutions to keep you strong and working in all of Savannah!

District 4 Candidate
Nick Palumbo

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Palumbo (Web Link)
Started: Tuesday, October 01, 2019 4:56:14 PM
Last Modified: Tuesday, October 01, 2019 5:27:18 PM
Time Spent: 00:31:03
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: Introduction

Q1 Please enter your name and contact information below

Name **Nick Palumbo**
 Email Address [REDACTED]

Q2 How many arts and culture-related activities have you attended, participated in, or otherwise supported in the last year?

Other (please specify):
 This is a private part of my life. Thank you.

Q3 Other tourist driven cities that are similar in size to Savannah have implemented plans that strengthen their cultural communities. Do you have a plan to help grow and strengthen the arts and cultural fabric of Savannah?

Savannah is in need of a strategic plan, arts and culture otherwise, period.

While our City does possess a comprehensive planner employed by the MPC, as a City we have not sought the opportunity to gather public input to formulate a resident-driven vision outside of the Savannah Forward Strategic Initiative.

I believe in building off of the success of 2033 produced by the SDRA that outlines a vision that returns Savannah to the rich, urban form that makes us famous. Included in the plan are strategies for retaining and restoring our grid pattern, expanding our park system to foster equity of access, promote environmental justice, and address affordable housing.

I would like to see these pressing issues addressed in addition to strategies that will strengthen our cultural identity, promote historic and cultural preservation, and promote an economically and culturally diverse vision for Savannah.

Q4 Public-private partnerships with arts and culture enterprises have been a necessary means to keep arts and culture within communities, but this model is not reliable or sustainable. If elected, what programs would you help enact to shift this paradigm?

Allowing vacant city properties to be used by artists

Development of an arts and culture overlay district

Other, please specify:

The City of Savannah recently completed a \$24.4 million dollar Cultural Arts Center that will bring new and exciting opportunities for our City. In addition to its central and valuable location downtown, the Center was supported with a dedicated number of full-time staff positions to expand the interest of arts and culture in our communities. I look forward to this new and valuable project being fully actualized in the years ahead. The prompt relates that public-private partnerships are not sustainable under the current model without providing any additional information or sources so I am not able to relate my responses to the prompt. However, I do support the utilization of vacant city-owned structures to be granted for arts and culture under the purview and recommendation of the Cultural Affairs Commission. I am supportive of many of these other prompts, but need more information before providing a commitment.

Q5 Industries such as retail, manufacturing, tourism, etc. are offered business development and retention incentives. Should arts and culture enterprises receive the same access to the government funded resources; promotional funds, services, direct funding, investments; as well?

Other comments:

I believe in promoting a vision for our City that accentuates our creative industries. Both as a method to share our unique and distinct sense of place with the world, as well as to diversify our local jobs market and provide for a diverse, resilient economy. I would need more details on what incentives could be offered and evaluate them on a case-by-case basis through our City Council. I believe this questionnaire is referencing economic incentives provided through the Savannah Economic Development Authority but it is unstated. If so, I believe that our local economy would be well-served to develop inroads to help foster local, distinctive businesses that currently exist locally, as well as support SEDA establishing robust startup spaces for local businesses to get off the ground.

Q6 What is your position of not-for-profit arts and culture enterprises, inclusive of all-volunteer enterprises, being provided government services, incentives, funding, and investments?

I will seek the support and trust the recommendations of our local experts on the Cultural Affairs Commission to address this issue.

Q7 Even when municipalities have functional, robust funding plans for arts and culture, too often the bulk of funding is directed to large institutions rather than to a diverse pool of recipients representing the whole community. What is your plan to ensure an equitable distribution of revenue and other resources to arts and culture organizations and individual artists?

I will seek the support and trust the recommendation of our panel of Cultural Affairs Commission to address this issue and recommend methods to provide a more equitable distribution of resources to a diverse pool of recipients.

Q8 What message do you want to share about why you are the best candidate for arts and culture in Savannah?

Savannah stands at an exciting crossroads in our history. With our Tricentennial nearly upon us, we have the opportunity to define a new vision for our City. I believe a keystone of that vision is for Savannah to be the creative Capitol of Georgia by supporting economic development that will make that future a reality.

District 5 Candidate
Estella Edwards Shabazz

No response received.

District 6 Candidate
Antonio Hunter

Unable to locate contact information for candidate.

District 6 Candidate
Kurtis Purtee

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Purtee (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 26, 2019 11:13:09 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 26, 2019 11:33:25 AM
Time Spent: 00:20:16
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: Introduction

Q1 Please enter your name and contact information below

Name	Kurtis Purtee
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Phone Number	[REDACTED]

Q2 How many arts and culture-related activities have you attended, participated in, or otherwise supported in the last year?

Music Festival or performance,
Theater performance,
Art exhibition,
Arts festival or fair ,
Viewed public artwork such as murals or sculptures

Q3 Other tourist driven cities that are similar in size to Savannah have implemented plans that strengthen their cultural communities. Do you have a plan to help grow and strengthen the arts and cultural fabric of Savannah?

Arts and cultural fabric are a staple of Savannah. In my district, district 6, I plan to partner with Georgia Southern University and many local artists to raise awareness of the different cultural aspects of the community. Prior, I have had the pleasure to be involved in the Asian Culture festival as well as Celebration Days, celebrating African American culture. I believe that we should use resources that are at our disposal to be able to educate our community on arts and cultural history.

Q4 Public-private partnerships with arts and culture enterprises have been a necessary means to keep arts and culture within communities, but this model is not reliable or sustainable. If elected, what programs would you help enact to shift this paradigm?

1% of new private development or redevelopment dedicated to implementing arts and cultural activities

Allowing vacant city properties to be used by artists

Incorporation of public art in new government funded projects

Development of an arts and culture overlay district

Initiatives to create and foster a visual arts festival in Savannah

Q5 Industries such as retail, manufacturing, tourism, etc. are offered business development and retention incentives. Should arts and culture enterprises receive the same access to the government funded resources; promotional funds, services, direct funding, investments; as well?

Yes,

Other comments:

Development and retention of arts and culture are vital for our historic city. What is unique about our city is the tourism aspect that enhances the cultural diversity of our community. Arts and cultural history thrive in tourist cities all over the world. We must invest into our future by investing into local artists and cultural fabric.

Q6 What is your position of not-for-profit arts and culture enterprises, inclusive of all-volunteer enterprises, being provided government services, incentives, funding, and investments?

Non-profit enterprises are an important part of our community. Non-profits such as art and cultural enterprises are beneficial and vital to the education and history of our society. These endeavors also attract in other businesses and in turn provide economic growth. I believe in being able to provide government services, incentives, funding, and investments to these enterprises.

Q7 Even when municipalities have functional, robust funding plans for arts and culture, too often the bulk of funding is directed to large institutions rather than to a diverse pool of recipients representing the whole community. What is your plan to ensure an equitable distribution of revenue and other resources to arts and culture organizations and individual artists?

I like the idea of a screening process on where the funding will be used. What purpose will the funding serve? I am a huge advocate for local business and individual artists. We need to be able to accurately represent our community by allowing equitable distribution of revenue.

Q8 What message do you want to share about why you are the best candidate for arts and culture in Savannah?

I live and work in an all inclusive and diverse environment. I have been involved in art and culture events for many years, some in Flint, Michigan, Detroit, Michigan, and Savannah, Georgia. I have 19 years dedicated to public service and helping those in need. I call Savannah my home, because it is a community rich in arts and culture.

District 6 Candidate
Tony Thomas

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Thomas (Web Link)
Started: Wednesday, October 09, 2019 11:47:40 PM
Last Modified: Thursday, October 10, 2019 12:14:12 AM
Time Spent: 00:26:32
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: Introduction

Q1 Please enter your name and contact information below

Name	Tony Thomas
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Phone Number	[REDACTED]

Q2 How many arts and culture-related activities have you attended, participated in, or otherwise supported in the last year?

Music Festival or performance,
Theater performance,
Art exhibition,
Arts festival or fair,
Art auction for charity,
Viewed public artwork such as murals or sculptures,
 Other (please specify):
 Music Festival and Film Festival

Q3 Other tourist driven cities that are similar in size to Savannah have implemented plans that strengthen their cultural communities. Do you have a plan to help grow and strengthen the arts and cultural fabric of Savannah?

I have supported cultural arts funding by the City of Savannah for 20 years. I have never voted against this funding and have fought over reinstatement of several programs that were cut, many successfully restored. I believe that it is a responsibility of a thriving city to provide these type of events to our population as well as encourage the development of new events and festivals that bring value to the community. As a tourist town, we also benefit tremendously with a financial impact by the nearly 16 Million visitors yearly who venture here, many for the variety of events we sponsor and offer year round. I believe the city should use a portion of the hotel/ motel tax for the development of additional venues for the arts and to supplement the Cultural Arts Center. I would also like to see a task force formed to develop a feasible plan to enhance live music in the city and enhance what we currently have such as midtown Atlanta and even portions of Nashville.

Q4 Public-private partnerships with arts and culture enterprises have been a necessary means to keep arts and culture within communities, but this model is not reliable or sustainable. If elected, what programs would you help enact to shift this paradigm?

Incorporation of public art in new government funded projects

Development of an arts and culture overlay district

Initiatives to create and foster a visual arts festival in Savannah

Other, please specify:

River Festival, Country Music Festival, Seafood Festival - a real seafood festival. Not tents and trinkets on the riverfront.

Q5 Industries such as retail, manufacturing, tourism, etc. are offered business development and retention incentives. Should arts and culture enterprises receive the same access to the government funded resources; promotional funds, services, direct funding, investments; as well?

Yes,

Other comments:

I believe it is the responsibility of a thriving city to foster culture and arts in our community. Afterall, she stands on top of our city hall.

Q6 What is your position of not-for-profit arts and culture enterprises, inclusive of all-volunteer enterprises, being provided government services, incentives, funding, and investments?

Again, no member of council has raised their hands more for the arts than I have. I believe we have a fundamental responsibility to support the arts.

Q7 Even when municipalities have functional, robust funding plans for arts and culture, too often the bulk of funding is directed to large institutions rather than to a diverse pool of recipients representing the whole community. What is your plan to ensure an equitable distribution of revenue and other resources to arts and culture organizations and individual artists?

Now I believe that organizations have a responsibility to raise capital and awareness to their own programs. The city should never become a sole source provider to any programming that is not sustainable. I believe that organizations should bring forth a plan and compete for funding on a fair and equitable field for all. While I support public funding, the pot of money is not limitless. I do believe that the creation of another funding stream through to the arts through hotel/ motel or other sources could be beneficial to seed start up programs until they can get on their feet.

Q8 What message do you want to share about why you are the best candidate for arts and culture in Savannah?

Well consistency to begin with. I'm the constant through 4 administrations and 20 years on Council that has always supported the arts and culture even when this City experienced some very difficult years. I believe in change and I believe that we have so many possibilities. My greatest wish though is to see the arts, festivals, and cultural events equitably spread throughout Savannah. North of Derenne is not the only place in Savannah that is capable of hosting events and offering outlets. We have to expand the boundaries and for that reason, I'm supportive of an individual pool of money dedicated for events South of Derenne to encourage the development in those areas that represent a vast percentage of the population that have been disenfranchised from many of these opportunities in the past.

At Large Post 1 Candidate
Carol Bell

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Bell (Web Link)
Started: Thursday, September 26, 2019 9:04:12 AM
Last Modified: Thursday, September 26, 2019 9:31:42 AM
Time Spent: 00:27:30
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: Introduction

Q1 Please enter your name and contact information below

Name **Carol Bell**
 Email Address [REDACTED]
 Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q2 How many arts and culture-related activities have you attended, participated in, or otherwise supported in the last year?

Music Festival or performance,
Theater performance,
Art exhibition,
Arts festival or fair,
Art auction for charity,
Viewed public artwork such as murals or sculptures

Q3 Other tourist driven cities that are similar in size to Savannah have implemented plans that strengthen their cultural communities. Do you have a plan to help grow and strengthen the arts and cultural fabric of Savannah?

We have not developed a Master Plan for the Arts but I support working with the Arts Community to develop such.

Q4 Public-private partnerships with arts and culture enterprises have been a necessary means to keep arts and culture within communities, but this model is not reliable or sustainable. If elected, what programs would you help enact to shift this paradigm?

1% of new private development or redevelopment dedicated to implementing arts and cultural activities,
Allowing vacant city properties to be used by artists,
Incorporation of public art in new government funded projects,
Initiatives to create and foster a visual arts festival in Savannah

Q5 Industries such as retail, manufacturing, tourism, etc. are offered business development and retention incentives. Should arts and culture enterprises receive the same access to the government funded resources; promotional funds, services, direct funding, investments; as well?

Yes,

Other comments:

Support working with SEDA to institute such incentives.

Q6 What is your position of not-for-profit arts and culture enterprises, inclusive of all-volunteer enterprises, being provided government services, incentives, funding, and investments?

i am willing to discuss the components of such a proposal.

Q7 Even when municipalities have functional, robust funding plans for arts and culture, too often the bulk of funding is directed to large institutions rather than to a diverse pool of recipients representing the whole community. What is your plan to ensure an equitable distribution of revenue and other resources to arts and culture organizations and individual artists?

I would suggest engaging the community in discussions to determine which arts organizations and artists should be funded.

Q8 What message do you want to share about why you are the best candidate for arts and culture in Savannah?

I have supported the Arts in this community for numerous years, having served on the boards of a number of local Arts organizations, such as Savannah Philharmonic and American Traditions Competition and have worked with national arts organizations such as BET's Bobby Jones Gospel - Co-host, The Gospel Music Workshop of America - Co-Chair of the Women's Division and the Georgia Mass Choir - Business Manager.

At Large Post 1 Candidate
Keshia Gibson Carter

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Carter (Web Link)
Started: Monday, September 30, 2019 10:26:14 PM
Last Modified: Monday, September 30, 2019 11:02:58 PM
Time Spent: 00:36:43
IP Address: [Redacted]

Page 1: Introduction

Q1 Please enter your name and contact information below

Name Kesha Gibson-Carter
Email Address [Redacted]
Phone Number [Redacted]

Q2 How many arts and culture-related activities have you attended, participated in, or otherwise supported in the last year?

Music Festival or performance,
Dance,
Art exhibition,
Art auction for charity,
Viewed public artwork such as murals or sculptures

Q3 Other tourist driven cities that are similar in size to Savannah have implemented plans that strengthen their cultural communities. Do you have a plan to help grow and strengthen the arts and cultural fabric of Savannah?

As Alderman At Large, I am eager to engage citizens from all districts in Savannah to connect with the art community. My goal is to highlight what makes each neighborhood's unique in its culture.

Q4 Public-private partnerships with arts and culture enterprises have been a necessary means to keep arts and culture within communities, but this model is not reliable or sustainable. If elected, what programs would you help enact to shift this paradigm?

1% of new private development or redevelopment dedicated to implementing arts and cultural activities

Incorporation of public art in new government funded projects

Development of an arts and culture overlay district

Initiatives to create and foster a visual arts festival in Savannah

Other, please specify:

United Artists Expo.

Q5 Industries such as retail, manufacturing, tourism, etc. are offered business development and retention incentives. Should arts and culture enterprises receive the same access to the government funded resources; promotional funds, services, direct funding, investments; as well?

Yes

Q6 What is your position of not-for-profit arts and culture enterprises, inclusive of all-volunteer enterprises, being provided government services, incentives, funding, and investments?

Giving consideration to the City's bearing capacity, I would support efforts to incorporate, in concert with local artists, a non-profit art enterprise.

Q7 Even when municipalities have functional, robust funding plans for arts and culture, too often the bulk of funding is directed to large institutions rather than to a diverse pool of recipients representing the whole community. What is your plan to ensure an equitable distribution of revenue and other resources to arts and culture organizations and individual artists?

Start with a definitive plan, which clearly identifies prescribed plans, and build in an accountability structure.

Q8 What message do you want to share about why you are the best candidate for arts and culture in Savannah?

I know I am a great candidate for arts and culture in Savannah, for I am the individual who has been most demonstrative of support to local Artists. Through my personal support and through charitable endeavors, I have consistently supported the art community in Savannah.

I am most excited to now be in the position to establish policy that would better aid the community as a whole.

At Large Post 2 Candidate
Alicia Blakely

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Blakely (Web Link)
Started: Saturday, October 05, 2019 1:37:49 PM
Last Modified: Saturday, October 05, 2019 2:55:26 PM
Time Spent: 01:17:37
IP Address: [REDACTED]

Page 1: Introduction

Q1 Please enter your name and contact information below

Name **Alicia L Blakely**
 Email Address [REDACTED]
 Phone Number [REDACTED]

Q2 How many arts and culture-related activities have you attended, participated in, or otherwise supported in the last year?

Music Festival or performance,
Theater performance,
Dance,
Art exhibition,
Arts festival or fair ,
Viewed public artwork such as murals or sculptures ,
 Other (please specify):
 I'm a Commissioner for the Monuments and Markers Commission for Chatham County

Q3 Other tourist driven cities that are similar in size to Savannah have implemented plans that strengthen their cultural communities. Do you have a plan to help grow and strengthen the arts and cultural fabric of Savannah?

Most definitely. I've visited other cities and see their cultural communities and think these murals, statues, banners etc.. would be great in Savannah. DOWNTOWN Savannah indeed is historic but just imagine how much more revenue our city could generate by acknowledging other AREAS of the city and thier cultural contributions.

Q4 Public-private partnerships with arts and culture enterprises have been a necessary means to keep arts and culture within communities, but this model is not reliable or sustainable. If elected, what programs would you help enact to shift this paradigm?

1% of new private development or redevelopment dedicated to implementing arts and cultural activities

Allowing vacant city properties to be used by artists

Incorporation of public art in new government funded projects

Development of an arts and culture overlay district

Initiatives to create and foster a visual arts festival in Savannah

Other, please specify:

No one can or should hate on the arts. I love everything about the arts and different cultures in this city. I feel we should support the arts and cultural communities as much as possible. ESPECIALLY in our SCHOOLS.

Q5 Industries such as retail, manufacturing, tourism, etc. are offered business development and retention incentives. Should arts and culture enterprises receive the same access to the government funded resources; promotional funds, services, direct funding, investments; as well?

Yes

Q6 What is your position of not-for-profit arts and culture enterprises, inclusive of all-volunteer enterprises, being provided government services, incentives, funding, and investments?

I want the non profits and civic engagement organizations to benefit from the billions of dollars in revenue that the City already generates.

Q7 Even when municipalities have functional, robust funding plans for arts and culture, too often the bulk of funding is directed to large institutions rather than to a diverse pool of recipients representing the whole community. What is your plan to ensure an equitable distribution of revenue and other resources to arts and culture organizations and individual artists?

When funds are generated I will ensure that they will be distributed evenly, fairly and balanced.

Q8 What message do you want to share about why you are the best candidate for arts and culture in Savannah?

I am a very artistic person. I'm a jazz singer, art collector. I also host and fund theatrical projects across the city especially in the African American community. I would love to see inclusiveness among the arts and culture community no matter what race, ethnicity or gender. I'm the BEST CANDIDATE for the Arts and Culture because I'm inspired by the ARTS.

At Large Post 2 Candidate
Tony Center

#1

COMPLETE

Collector: Center (Web Link)
Started: Monday, October 07, 2019 9:43:55 PM
Last Modified: Monday, October 07, 2019 9:47:48 PM
Time Spent: 00:03:53
IP Address:

Page 1: Introduction

Q1 Please enter your name and contact information below

Name	Tony Center
Email Address	
Phone Number	

Q2 How many arts and culture-related activities have you attended, participated in, or otherwise supported in the last year?

- Music Festival or performance,
- Theater performance,
- Art exhibition,
- Arts festival or fair,
- Art auction for charity,
- Viewed public artwork such as murals or sculptures,
- Other (please specify):
- Cinema

Q3 Other tourist driven cities that are similar in size to Savannah have implemented plans that strengthen their cultural communities. Do you have a plan to help grow and strengthen the arts and cultural fabric of Savannah?

I would not draw a plan by myself. I would seek advice and input from those on your lists, artists, and others before drafting a plan. However, one example is that when we support the Music Festival, we should have more music on the streets, in different locations, available free to the public.

Q4 Public-private partnerships with arts and culture enterprises have been a necessary means to keep arts and culture within communities, but this model is not reliable or sustainable. If elected, what programs would you help enact to shift this paradigm?

Incorporation of public art in new government funded projects

Other, please specify:

You listed specific choices. There could be other alternatives. This should be a collaborative effort between elected officials and people within the arts and culture society. So, while I cannot commit to a specific plan without seeing the details, I believe in investing in Savannah and the arts, especially when the youth benefit.

Q5 Industries such as retail, manufacturing, tourism, etc. are offered business development and retention incentives. Should arts and culture enterprises receive the same access to the government funded resources; promotional funds, services, direct funding, investments; as well?

Yes,

Other comments:

All requests for incentives should receive identical scrutiny and have access to the same resources.

Q6 What is your position of not-for-profit arts and culture enterprises, inclusive of all-volunteer enterprises, being provided government services, incentives, funding, and investments?

I have to know more details about a specific enterprise before agreeing to provide services, incentives, funding, and investments. I won't commit any funds without knowing more details about the request, the requesting party, the prospective attendees, etc. As I wrote above, I cannot commit to any specific plan without seeing the details, but I believe in investing in arts and culture, particularly where the youth benefit. The Cultural Affairs Commission handled these details for council when I was on the Commission. As a Commissioner, both individually and as part of our Commission team, I supported providing services, incentives, and funding.

Q7 Even when municipalities have functional, robust funding plans for arts and culture, too often the bulk of funding is directed to large institutions rather than to a diverse pool of recipients representing the whole community. What is your plan to ensure an equitable distribution of revenue and other resources to arts and culture organizations and individual artists?

Again, as a Cultural Affairs Commissioner, I supported funding a very diverse pool of recipients. But once again, the devil is in the details. Each request must be individually assessed.

Q8 What message do you want to share about why you are the best candidate for arts and culture in Savannah?

I never claimed to be the best, just better. I lived in Europe for a year. When I returned home I visited with then Mayor Floyd Adams. I told him about the flowers in every European city, even the smallest cities. I said we should have more flowers. They make people smile. They promote a happier feeling. I feel the same way about arts and cultural. I love the many street festivals throughout European cities, and would love more of that in Savannah.