

Office Candidate Seeks: Ann Arbor City Council
District/Ward: Ward 3

Candidate's Full Name: Julie Grand
Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Candidate's E-mail Address: julie@votegrand.org
Campaign Website: votegrand.org
Campaign Contact:

1. In regards to arts, culture and heritage, do you consider yourself any of the following:

I believe that availability and access to arts, cultural and heritage offerings in our community make our community a great place to create, live, work, play, learn and visit.
I am a consumer of arts, culture and/or heritage products and programs.
I am personally a donor to arts, cultural and/or heritage organizations.

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

My daughter has enjoyed performing with the Burns Park Players. She and I have attended performances by the Young People's Theater (Power Center), Ann Arbor in Concert (Michigan Theater), and the Senior Concert of my fantastic campaign volunteer, Anna Hayman (Kerrytown Concert House). I volunteered as a centers helper regularly in my son's Young Fives classroom. His teacher was happy to accommodate my offer to take on the "messiest" projects, which typically revolved around art. My family looks forward to attending various local festivals, such as Top of the Park and Festifools.

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

I was a dancer from kindergarten through my senior year in college. I also performed in musical theater, serving as a performer and choreographer. My final dance performance was part of an outreach program to elementary school students in the Philadelphia Public Schools. There is no better way to end a dance career than playing the role of a princess in front of a room full of kindergartners. Dance 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 build a new 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 public middle school art teacher.

4. What role do you think arts, culture, and the creative sector can play in supporting key education priorities such as closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate, and preparing more students for college enrollment and the 21st century workforce?

Arts are an essential piece of a quality K-12 education. In terms of retention, creative opportunities can provide a reason for struggling students to come to school. When talents is recognized, students gain confidence that can transfer to traditional academic subjects and are provided with a framework for the creative thinking required of a knowledge-based economy. The most successful entrepreneurs commonly share a mastery of both science/technology and a visual/performing art.

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



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The creative sector can help diversify our economy. Creative jobs are a growth industry in both the not-for-profit and for-profit sectors. Arts events also support businesses, as locals and visitors are drawn to neighboring restaurants and retail.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer:

I support public investment in the arts because it contributes to the quality of life of our city. Businesses and individuals looking to relocate include the creative economy as an important metric of a city's vitality. We are fortunate to live in a community with an established and emerging creative economy and need to promote its growth.

7. If elected, what measureable action(s) will you take during your term to support public investment in our community's creative economy and support arts, culture, heritage organizations and businesses and creative individuals?

I believe we need to focus on smaller budget projects that are in accessible locations, include a more extensive public engagement process, and promote the inclusion of local artists. I'm also in support of exploring public-private partnerships to fund art, as well providing funding for temporary art and festivals. The Ann Arbor Public Art Commission (AAPAC) has been left completely defunded and without staff support. I would like to see AAPAC receive some support to successfully transition from the former Percent for Art funding model.

8. What is your position on public funding for arts and culture and, if elected, how will your position be reflected during the budget/planning process?

I would like to support projects that are smaller-scale, local, and are unrestricted thematically based on the funding source. The "baked in" inclusion of art for capital expenditures should both fit and enhance the project. I would prefer to see art where it is readily accessible to the public, not only in the downtown, but in neighborhood parks and along the Huron River. The City Council should continue to support organizations such as the Ann Arbor Summer Festival, so that all residents can enjoy and be exposed to the performing arts.

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

Line item appropriations
Appropriations distributed via grant programs

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

Yes

If yes, from which caucus would you accept an invitation?

Washtenaw County Caucus
