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2014 Washtenaw County Candidates Survey Response

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Office Candidate Seeks: Ann Arbor Mayor

District/Ward: Ann Arbor

Candidate's Full Name: Christopher Taylor

Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Candidate's E-mail Address: votetaylor2@gmail.com

Campaign Website: taylorforannarbor.com

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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?

Ann Arbor in Concert Burns Park Players Approx 10 UMS events

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?

Music and theater formed the foundation of my K-12 education. I have participated in music and theater since the 7th grade, attended the Interlochen National Music Camp for four full summers, and spent my 11th and 12th grades attending the Interlochen Arts Academy. I have a BMA in Vocal Performance from the University of Michigan. Arts and culture are an important part of my personal identity and an everyday part of my life.

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?

An active program in arts and culture is pennies-on-the-dollar effective in building community and supporting educational achievement.

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

An active program in arts and culture is pennies-on-the-dollar effective in building community and supporting economic development. Arts and culture are critical for place-making and talent attraction/retention. The quality of life improvements that come from an active arts and culture environment are good for everyone.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer:

Public investment in the arts is a social good. It deserves public support.

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 would continue to advocate for the arts and culture and to vote in favor of Ann Arbor's active participation in these endeavors. I would also be ready, willing, and able to lend whatever support I could as Mayor to local arts organizations / enterprises to help them improve our community.

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 believe that the arts and culture deserve public funding. I have voted on numerous occasions to provide that support and will continue to do so.

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

Tax based (millages, accommodations, sales etc.)

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?
