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2014 Washtenaw County Candidates Survey Response

Published verbatim and unedited

Office Candidate Seeks: Ann Arbor City Council
District/Ward: Ward 5

Candidate's Full Name: Chuck Warpehoski
Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Candidate's E-mail Address: chuck@voteforchuck.org
Campaign Website: www.voteforchuck.org
Campaign Contact: 2020 Winewood Ann Arbor, MI 48103

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?

Top of the Park, concerts at the farmers markets, kids arts events at the library

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?

In school I participated in band, theater, and forensics. I learned the value of practice and teamwork. Also, the literature I studied in my language classes gave me an appreciation for the power of well-crafted, insightful prose to illuminate the human condition.

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?

One of the key challenges our educational system faces is to create a learning environment that engages students to that they want to be there and to learn. For some students, the arts provide that creative outlet that they feel passionate about that connects them to their education.

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

Economic vitality in the 21st century depends on creating environments that people want to work, live, and invest in. A rich cultural environment is one of the key factors in attracting retaining the next generation of businesses and workers.

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

Yes



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Please explain your answer:

Public investment in the arts are key to enriching our quality of life and economic health. That's why I support the City's public art administrator position and our funding for Top of the Park and the community events fund.

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 will fight to continue the City's investment in the creative sector by pushing back against efforts to defund our arts administrator, ensure that capital projects look for opportunities to incorporate artistic elements, and continue to support City funding for the community events fund which supports local artistic endeavors such as FestiFools and Dancing in the Streets.

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 support funding for arts and culture. In the past several budget cycles we have seen an attack on such funding, including most recently an effort to cut the budget for the arts administrator to a level at which the position would be ineffective. I have been and will continue to be a champion for funding this position.

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

Line item appropriations
Inclusion of arts funding in capital 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
