



1100 North Main Street · Suite 106B
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
A3Arts.org
t. 734.213.2733
f. 734.747.8530

2014 Washtenaw County Candidates Survey Response

Published verbatim and unedited

Office Candidate Seeks: Ann Arbor City Council

District/Ward: Ward 2

Candidate's Full Name: Nancy Kaplan

Party Affiliation (if applicable): Democrat

Candidate's E-mail Address: nancykaplanforcouncil@yahoo.com

Campaign Website: www.nancykaplanforcouncil.org

Campaign Contact: Rita Mitchell, 734.665.0248

- 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?**
We have attended plays, gone to concerts, museums, gallery shows, Festive Fools, Top of the Park and attended artist competitions by the AA Public Art Commission and the AA Art Fair.
- 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?**
Unfortunately, I had little in school except for music. We studied opera and went to the Metropolitan Opera for a show. Fabulous! The setting, the enthusiasm of the audience was invigorating.
- 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?**
The arts, culture and creative sector open a world of experiences to students. I taught adult education and took students to their first concert and first visits to a museums. All for free which was a major factor for those who can afford little. Also it is a break from the strictly academic which can be difficult for those with little worldly experience and cultural references. This can give students confidence. Both music and visual arts need to be offered and not either/or.
- 5. What role can arts, culture, and the creative sector play in Washtenaw's economic growth and vitality?**
Diversity makes a community interesting and vital. Those who produce the arts and those who make their work accessible bring an interesting and energizing ambiance to a community. The arts and creative sector are available to all ages and socio-economic levels and, therefore, break down differences or barriers and help to create community.

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 could be an administrator who reaches out to get private investment, community foundation grants, state and federal grants. Asking for a millage can be difficult as demonstrated by the failure in Ann Arbor of such a proposal. However, if success is shown through a well run donor program and then additional funding is needed, the community may be willing to reconsider its vote.

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?

Opportunity is often what artists need. More temporary art of all kinds - sculpture, music, visual arts could all be supported by a match between public and private funding. Premiums could be offered to developers for support of the arts, grants could be given by the city, and the city and county could collaborate on bigger efforts. If there are new events, the city could provide road closures or devote city space to an event. The arts administrator would be able to help negotiate and arrange events to simplify the process for organizations and creative individuals. Perhaps the city could have a new artist/creative individual(s) event one day/night of the month for August through October (post art fair and while the weather is good).

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 support a director of the arts position - similar to the UM. One person to make the art/cultural program happen. If this proves to be successful as demonstrated by public involvement in attendance and donations, then it may be time to try a millage again!

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

Millage after other approaches are successful but not sufficient

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
