



CITIZEN ARTIST BALTIMORE



Baltimore City 2016 Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire

Personal Impact of Arts and Culture

In what significant way has an experience with arts and culture influenced your life or thinking?

CATHERINE PUGH (D)

Through my experience of working with artists and community members, I developed a vision for a high school that can provide top quality education in arts and design in Baltimore. Working in collaboration with former MICA President Fred Lazarus, noted architect Steve Ziger and other partners, we created the Baltimore Design School in 2011. This is how I work and want to work with you. Together we can make the arts integral to creating afterschool, weekend and summer programs for all our youth as well as strengthening arts instruction during the school day. Students of the Design School are instructed in areas such as fashion design, architecture, and graphic design to prepare them for careers in the arts and industry. Students are also connected to local industry professionals in the arts and design fields through internship programs. We must use the arts to give all our youth confidence and a voice as well as the skills they need to prepare them for the workforce of the future.

JOSHUA HARRIS (G)

Art and culture has uniquely shaped my views and perspective of the world. I understand that art is the talent and stories that already exist inside individuals and communities and what makes communities and cities unique is the ability to value and showcase that talent and the stories that make up a community. I believe that art and culture expands the world of youth and exposes them to critical thinking and possibilities previously untapped. Art and culture extends beyond the traditional view of canvas and brush. A city like Baltimore has so much art and culture that has been undervalued from the marching bands in every community to the Arabbers history of providing fresh fruits and vegetables to the many food deserts of West Baltimore. These are stories of art and culture that should be valued and shared. It is for this reason that I co-founded a nonprofit that creates urban revitalization and urban renewal using arts as a catalyst.

ALAN WALDEN (R)

Having been raised by parents who were interested in the arts I, too, have always been fascinated by the great contributions artists have made to the advancement of civilization and the expansion of culture. We simply cannot and should not do without them and the understand and love of the arts must be perpetuated from generation to generation.

Arts Education

The Maryland State Board of Education has adopted the goal that *100 percent of Maryland's students will participate in fine arts programs*. While many Maryland schools have excellent arts education programs, this is not the case in high poverty areas of Baltimore City, where programs are often non-existent (a violation of State regulation COMAR 13A,04.16.01). A substantial body of research links arts involvement with improved cognitive development, stronger academic performance, and lower dropout rates.

What will you do to ensure equitable access to consistent education in music, visual arts, as well as theater and dance, taught by qualified professionals in all Baltimore City Public Schools?

CATHERINE PUGH (D)

Education is a top priority for me and is one of the central pillars of my campaign. We must be committed to ensuring Baltimore's students receive equitable access to quality education that integrates the arts. I agree with the findings of the Governor's P20 Leadership Task Force on Arts Education that students should receive equitable arts education. It is imperative that our students are enriched by the arts in their daily lives and in our schools. Access to arts education taught by well qualified professionals is essential to transforming our school system into a 21st Century Education System. My experience in both City Hall and Annapolis places me in a unique position and gives me the leverage to forge relationships with state officials that are necessary to secure adequate resources for our schools and our children. We will maintain a database of qualified candidates in an effort to fill vacancies with individuals to meet the diversity of our needs.

Learning and enrichment does not stop with the end of the school day. We will engage with community and local partners to ensure children have a rich exposure to arts throughout the day.

JOSHUA HARRIS (G)

Access to great art and cultural programs for all of our students is often a result of economic injustice. Either under-funding or poor fiscal management. One of my core goals is to be fiscally responsible and transparent with all of our agencies including the City Board of Education. I believe that once we execute fiscal and performance audits we will find deficiencies to be corrected and funds that will become available. The next phase of course is to increase educational spending from the city level and advocate for more on the state level. This will ensure we are investing in Baltimore City's greatest asset, our youth, and ensuring that everyone of them are exposed to and have access to the arts in the classroom.

ALAN WALDEN (R)

There is no excuse for denying the arts to any child regardless of social or economic standing. I would pursue, vigorously, a campaign to provide at least some measure of art awareness and education in all Baltimore City schools

Leadership & Decision Making

The arts and culture industry in Baltimore generates \$388.2 million in total economic activity, supports 9,505 full-time equivalent jobs, generates \$260.4 million in household income to local residents, and delivers \$33.9 million in local and state government revenue. (Arts and Economic Prosperity IV/Americans for the Arts 2010)

How will you include a range of artists and arts organizations in setting policy for the arts and culture sector? Will you develop a cultural plan for the arts, and if so, what strategies will it deploy?

CATHERINE PUGH (D)

We have made great progress turning Baltimore into a renowned destination for arts and culture over the last two decades. The numerous installations, museums, and festivals, we have serves as testament to this. Enlisting the aid of artists and art organizations we will develop a cultural plan that continues to move Baltimore forward in the arts, using other cities plans that have worked as a baseline. I particularly like what the city of Denver has done with their "Imagine 2020" to develop a cultural plan where their own citizens had a say in the artistic direction their city takes. It also redefines the role a city plays in the arts through community input and encouragement. After creating a cultural plan, it is important that we follow it through to its completion. That is why as Mayor I will look into creating a City Council position charged with implementing the plan.

JOSHUA HARRIS (G)

What we do know is that arts in the African American community are grossly undervalued and underfunded. As such, it is my intention to ensure more equitable distribution of capital to invest in a wide range of culturally specific arts. It is my intent to establish a cabinet level arts and culture position. This person's role would be to ensure that we are developing an equitable arts and culture plan and implementation. They would use as a guide Associated Black Charities 10 Essential Questions for Policy Development Review and Evaluation to ensure policy are equitable.

ALAN WALDEN (R)

Those directly involved in the arts must be included in any discussion of how best to promote and leverage Baltimore's artistic and cultural attractions for the benefit of both those who live and work here, and those who visit. This can be best accomplished by a committee of volunteers from all the artistic pursuits who would work with the city administration for the benefit of all concerned.

Equitable Funding

The Baltimore arts ecosystem is home to a wide array of important organizations - from large to small.

How will you ensure that your annual budget results in stable and equitable funding fairly benefiting communities of color?

CATHERINE PUGH (D)

We should remember that too many communities of color are the most vulnerable in the arts community. They get less funding both in terms of private donations and government support. According to the DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the University of Maryland, the 20 largest arts organizations of color are 90 percent smaller than their counterparts. Artists of color are more heavily dependent on governmental and foundation support they found. As such we need to make sure that our artist community reflects the rich and diverse culture of our city. We need to encourage budding artists from all neighborhoods and make sure they have the funding to sustain their training and are connected to opportunities.

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ALAN WALDEN (R)

Funding must be based on both need and impact. Color cannot and must not be a factor and all decisions should be made on a case by case basis.

Community Vibrancy

Our post-industrial city has many assets that could be utilized to further the work of the cultural community.

What actions will you take to help artists and neighborhood organizations enhance community vibrancy on a block-by-block level? How will you make city-controlled resources, such as under-utilized buildings, available to arts groups? How will you streamline the permitting process for neighborhood arts programming and events?

CATHERINE PUGH (D)

The vacant homes throughout the city represent an opportunity to reinvigorate longstanding neighborhoods. Through programs such as Vacants to Value and the William Donald Schaefer's Dollar House program we have a clean canvass on which to work. For little money we can make homeowners of previous renters. We can repopulate our city with those that want to help Baltimore grow and thrive.

I have worked to ensure public buildings are used by the communities that need them. Small things like making community schools open after school to be used by all community groups are a step in the right direction. We will look at what has worked in other cities to ensure underutilized resources are available for community use.

JOSHUA HARRIS (G)

My Arts and Culture Czar will work closely with the Department of Housing and Community Development to utilize the assets that exist within communities. There will be a focus and training on creative placemaking and fostering an environment of belonging versus disbelonging. With this we will be able to counter the displacement effects of gentrification, enabling the people and community to grow, feel welcome and sustain themselves as infrastructure develops around them. "Creative Placemaking practices must understand history, critical racial theory, and politics alongside the spatial planning and economic development theories that dominate the discourse. How race, class, poverty, and discrimination shape place — through a politics of belonging or disbelonging — needs to be reflected upon whether one is engaged with Creative Placemaking practices as an artist, funder, developer, NGO, or governmental agency." Roberto Bedoya

ALAN WALDEN (R)

Underutilized buildings are a major concern in Baltimore. This is an issue that requires much deeper study before a commitment can be made to anyone, whether or not they are engaged in the arts. The permit process on the other hand must and will be streamlined.

City Promotion

Even before the April uprising, the narrative of Baltimore was significantly different from that experienced by its residents. In addition to the great work happening in neighborhoods throughout the city, event-related spending by arts and culture attendees totaled \$121.9 million in 2010. (Arts and Economic Prosperity IV/Americans for the Arts 2010)

In what ways will you leverage Baltimore's many arts communities and cultural traditions to improve the image of our city and better market our people, places and events?

CATHERINE PUGH (D)

Throughout history arts has played a critical role in developing one's culture and showing where we come from. That applies today in Baltimore as well. Quality of life includes a city full of vibrant arts and artisans. It is also essential for attracting future innovators and entrepreneurs to our city. I will bring together the best and the brightest in the arts to create a comprehensive marketing campaign to rebrand Baltimore as a place to live, work, and play. As a Councilwoman I started the "Fish Out of Water" project, which gave local artists an opportunity to create unique sculptures throughout the city.

We can make Baltimore a major cosmopolitan tourist destination. The artisans that make up our diverse and innovative arts scene must play an integral role in the marketing direction this city takes. I like the work the nonprofit organization City Arts in Washington D.C. has been doing to this end working with local artists and the community to create murals reflecting the local history. We must move beyond the negative image created by "The Wire" in order to showcase all Baltimore has to offer. Events like the Light Festival are a step in the right direction, embracing the artists and culture that makes our city great.

JOSHUA HARRIS (G)

Baltimore is a city of extensive arts, music, theater, and cultural history. Rolling out an extensive strategic marketing approach to showcase the amazing people, places, and happenings of our city is a must. My administration's focus will not only be to control the narrative of our city, but to reshape it through inclusive development of people, providing opportunities and having art and culture at the center as the catalyst.

ALAN WALDEN (R)

Baltimore is a treasure trove of artistic attractions ranging from the BMA, the Walters, the AVAM, et al to much smaller venues. It is the intention of this administration to increase promotion of Baltimore as an artistic and cultural destination and to place the emphasis on what the city has to offer rather than the difficulties with which it must deal.

Strong Communities and Employment Opportunities

The arts and culture sector provides unique and powerful opportunities for healing, change, and building community. Such resources are critically needed to address Baltimore's current challenges.

How will you look to partner with the artists and organizations in your administration to create employment opportunities for artists, cultural organizers, and/or cultural groups across Baltimore city government and to address community needs?

CATHERINE PUGH (D)

In the case of the Baltimore Design School, a public school that I helped to found, I saw the need to bring the arts and design and engineering into one facility. I brought together government officials, the artist community, private sector businesses that need well trained artisans together. Arts organizations have shown over the past decade that their value does well beyond a narrow mission. They play a critical role in education, neighborhood revitalization, the empowerment of our youth and the stimulation of a culture of innovation and economic development. However, too often in the past that impact has been limited or impeded because it did not have the active support and engagement of the Mayor and City Government. The mayor and the city government must be active partners in the arts along with the local neighborhoods. I know this is true because I have worked this way with the arts for years and no one in the race has been more supportive of the arts or been a more active partner than I have. We will partner with groups to hold events such as the upcoming Light Festival to foster job creation and continue Baltimore's proud tradition in the arts.

JOSHUA HARRIS (G)

I see arts and culture as a tool to begin to address the many public health issues faced in our city. As such, art is not an extracurricular activity but rather proactive measure to begin to ensure our children are critical thinkers and exposed to a world as large as they can imagine. This includes healing measures for adults to understand the art and talent that exist within them as well and how it is a resource to their career. I combine my vision to bring solar and clean energy production to our city with my vision of art. Training our citizens to creatively and innovatively bring to market new homes that are energy efficient, repair and maintain our cities infrastructure is a priority. The skill sets required are indeed an art form and talent that will always be needed for generations to come. I am excited to build our neighborhoods, create jobs, and expand the limited scope of art we traditionally see to the plethora of possibility that it truly is.

ALAN WALDEN (R)

"Healing, change, and building community" require the cooperation of the public at large. It is not, in my opinion, the job of government to create employment opportunities but, rather, to create a structure and an environment in which those opportunities abound. The neighborhoods, themselves, and their residents are best able to determine what they require.



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February 26, 2016

citizenartist.vote

Priorities Statement

Findings from Citizen Artist Baltimore Listening Sessions and Surveys January 2016

Baltimore is home to thousands of voters who are also artists, theatre, concert, and museum-goers, and creative workers. They care about core civic issues like public safety and education but their votes will also be strongly influenced by candidates' positions on arts and culture. Citizen Artist Baltimore (CAB), a broad-based, nonpartisan get-out-the-vote coalition, conducted a series of listening sessions with hundreds of voters around Baltimore. Our goal is to communicate those voters priorities with the candidates and mobilize thousands of arts supporters on Election Day.

CAB held seven listening sessions throughout the month of January 2016 in geographically diverse parts of Baltimore City. Sessions were held at The Windup Space (Station North Arts & Entertainment District), Zella's Pizzeria (Hollins Market), Arch Social Club (Pennsylvania Ave.), Baltimore American Indian Center (Upper Fells Point), Cherry Hill Public Homes (Cherry Hill), Wombwork Productions (Walbrook), and the Meyerhoff Symphony Hall (Mt. Vernon). Members of the CAB steering committee, representing arts and culture organizations of varying sizes and constituencies, facilitated these sessions. City residents who were unable to attend a listening session were invited to participate through an online survey.

Hundreds of Baltimore citizens shared their priorities, values, and ideas about how the city can sustain and strengthen its arts, culture, and humanities assets. CAB sorted, analyzed, and contextualized these responses, distilling them into priority statements of the arts and culture issues most relevant to voters in the upcoming election. Overall, participants emphasized the need for equity and the role of arts and culture in healing and building communities. These were infused into all aspects of the conversations. Three main areas of importance emerged: Healthy Communities, Arts Education, and A Supportive Infrastructure. Participants stated their desire for a citywide arts agenda, strategy, and/or planning process to address these areas comprehensively.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Culture / community value(s) / health

Baltimore's strength lies in the flourishing creativity of its diverse communities. Arts and culture are everywhere: from marching bands and choirs to murals, gardens, museums, theaters, and DJ nights. Culture has always brought life to the city. It empowers people to express themselves creatively while connecting with deep traditions and supporting themselves and their communities.

Personal expression is not only a joy, but a necessity. Day-by-day, cultural organizers and community groups practice the healing power of art through programs such as after school poetry productions, drawing classes, dance, mentoring, and more. Year-round, grassroots level cultural organizations and programming make invaluable contributions to the health and wellness of communities throughout the city. Places like neighborhood art centers, churches, and barbershop galleries serve as anchors to their communities and sources of positive energy. That Baltimore City thrives on culture is not just a downtown or arts district phenomenon - it's happening on streets and blocks throughout the city. Culture is who we are and must be respected, embraced and supported for the benefit of all.

Marketing / promotion

Baltimore City's cultural renaissance is being led by long-term residents as well as inspired new arrivals. Arts and culture is one of the most effective and genuine ways to represent our city nationally and abroad. Branding and promoting the city with its cultural assets will socially and economically benefit local artists, creative producers, [cultural](#) groups, and the city as a whole. The city should do what it can to cultivate local, national and global media outlets covering the positive stories of Baltimore's ongoing arts and cultural successes.

City officials leading internal and public conversations need to be mindful of using empowering language when representing our people and places on city websites and through city publications. The words we use affect public perception of communities. Baltimore is more than a city of "at risk" individuals living in "disenfranchised" neighborhoods. We are a collection of resilient communities led by powerful people working together to overcome the very tangible effects of long-term economic and racial challenges. Baltimore's legacy of survival and success is a story interwoven with our unique arts and cultural expressions. For the benefit of our neighbors, ourselves, and our city—leaders must put our best and truest faces forward by representing Baltimore as a creative place of strength and celebration.

ARTS EDUCATION

Over and over, the need for quality arts education was echoed in every community. This priority has been best synthesized through the Baltimore Arts Education Coalition, which [calls](#) for “...ensuring annual equitable access to sequential vocal and instrumental music, visual arts, theater and dance instruction taught by qualified professionals in all Baltimore City Public Schools.” Currently, Baltimore City Public School students have unequal access to arts education when compared to surrounding school districts. Baltimore City public school students deserve the same advantages as students in other counties. Enabling students to express themselves, share their voices and present opportunities to showcase their talents will help them create positive approaches to problem solving. More and more, the private sector is looking for creative thinkers, makers and doers who can work across disciplines in pursuit of needed innovation. Arts education prioritized and funded equally with science, technology, engineering and math provides competitive career opportunities in the ever growing, interdisciplinary STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) fields. However the need for art education does not stop when the school bell rings. Youth need places to go after school for meaningfully structured time in spaces facilitating positive personal expression. CAB supports reopening recreation centers and fully funding programs for youth during after-school hours.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Economic Impact / employment / workforce / business development

Studies reveal that the economic impact of the arts in Baltimore City is substantial and significantly larger than in other similar cities. (See data from Americans for the Arts 2010 report, below).

- There are 9,500+ full time equivalent jobs in the arts. This is double the median number found in similar size regions.
- The sector generates \$16 million in Local Tax Revenue.
- Nonprofit Arts & Culture attendees spend average of \$17.00 per person at area restaurants, garages, etc. not including cost of admission to event. (Source: Americans for the Arts)

Arts and culture clearly brings great value to the city of Baltimore. Participants expressed desire for a city department devoted to the specific needs of the nonprofit arts and culture sector, just as the city provides for small businesses. By assisting the arts with tax incentives, job training, small business development, planning and permitting, space allocation, and more, such a department would ensure the growth of this economic sector in a way that benefits people across all parts of Baltimore and generate a strong return on investment.

FYI-At the State level, the return on investment for the annual arts appropriation is 3:1. (Maryland State Arts Council Arts Impact Study 2014)

TOTAL Economic Impact of the Nonprofit Arts and Culture Industry in the City of Baltimore (Spending by Nonprofit Arts and Culture Organizations <u>and</u> Their Audiences)			
	City of Baltimore	Median of Similar Study Regions <i>Pop. = 500,000 to 999,999</i>	National Median
Direct Expenditures	\$388,210,984	\$161,334,702	\$49,081,279
Full-Time Equivalent Jobs	9,505	4,800	1,533
Resident Household Income	\$260,413,000	\$114,667,000	\$35,124,500
Local Government Revenue	\$16,985,000	\$7,228,000	\$1,946,500
State Government Revenue	\$16,914,000	\$9,218,000	\$2,498,000

Grants / funding

The funding formula for nonprofit arts is part earned revenue and part contributed support. The latter is a three-legged stool: Individual, Corporate/Foundation, and Government. The State of Maryland commits more than \$16 million a year to the arts. In most jurisdictions this public support is matched in some ratio by the local government. Baltimore needs to create and commit to an annual appropriation to support the nonprofit arts and culture sector, and establish a funding system equally accessible to artists and organizations from every corner of the city. Consistent and equitable support is the only way to ensure that the assets of the cultural community will work for all of Baltimore's citizens.

CAB participants felt strongly that funding should be more equally distributed to both established and grassroots arts organizations led by and benefiting communities of color. Groups and artists operating at the grassroots level and/or not partnered with anchor institutions must have fair access to funding. Furthermore, the city needs to do a better job of making individual artists of color and smaller neighborhood organizations aware of funding opportunities. City-run arts grants need well-advertised and accessible information sessions as well as grant writing workshops so that future applicants can level the competitive grant-writing playing field and increase their chances of success.

Space

Through its listening sessions CAB found that creative space for art-making also serves as a much-needed foundation for cohesive communities and civic life. Like populations throughout the city, Baltimore's creative community feels the strain of finding and maintaining affordable housing. We advocate for housing solutions that are mindful of the needs of low-income populations, including those who identify as artists and cultural producers. The preservation and maintenance of existing working art spaces, many of which are located in former industrial space, is critical to the health of the creative community as well as the future growth of small manufacturing in our city. We advocate for preservation of existing industrial space for artistic production and other forms of light manufacturing, rather than rezoning these existing spaces for residential development.

Baltimore's creative communities face numerous administrative and bureaucratic barriers to establishing and maintaining physical space for arts-related purposes. Streamlining the purchase or lease of city-owned property through programs such as Vacants to Value would be of great utility to Baltimore's creative communities and the broader citizen base. Additionally, simplifying the permitting process and giving greater consideration to mixed-use zoning would bolster the success rate of creative entrepreneurs looking to sustain existing art spaces or add new ones to the city's cultural ecosystem.

At the neighborhood level, spreading the benefits of Arts & Entertainment designations beyond the current boundaries of the districts would enable more neighborhoods to benefit from the tax incentives, as well as the organizational and marketing potential of being an arts or cultural district.

Transportation / infrastructure

Safe, reliable, and affordable public transportation is necessary for the health of Baltimore's creative communities, as well as the health of the city as a whole. We advocate for incorporating the talents of Baltimore's creative communities into the city's transportation planning efforts through activities consisting of, but not limited to: enhancing bicycle infrastructure, local visual art on the interior and exterior of buses and light rail, public art as traffic calming, and artist designed wayfinding.

Access to wifi and broadband is vital to the health of the creative communities, our schools, and the sustained growth of other sectors. The city should create a comprehensive plan for implementing broadband in every neighborhood and treat the adoption of citywide broadband as it would any other public utility.

Arts agenda / developing strategies / cultural plan

Baltimore has a wide array of organizations and artists who embody the strength of Baltimore city. Over the past fifteen years and with the support of the Mayor's office, Baltimore has established and/or grown three state-designated arts districts, world class festivals such as Artscape, the Baltimore Book Festival and the much-anticipated Light City Baltimore. The city has continued to provide support to Baltimore's anchor institutions including those that steward city-owned collections. A wide range of awards and grants encourage artists to live and produce work in their hometown, and students from a number of world-class universities are falling in love with the city. At the same time, community-based artists have made important contributions in the lives of children and organizations large and small have given them access to art while very little is provided in school.

This growth, and the demonstrated assets that the creative sector brings, offers a great opportunity at a time when Baltimore is at the leading edge of wrestling with historic, institutionalized inequity. As a result, *now is the time to develop a multi-year strategic approach to arts and culture, one that in other cities has taken the form of a cultural plan, or cultural agenda.*

Issues of importance that could be addressed through a highly inclusive planning process include:

- Motivating regional cooperation.
- Developing dedicated funding streams for arts and culture.
- Meeting the needs of and supporting grassroots/neighborhood level efforts along with those of larger cultural organizations.
- Including the cultural sector and creative workers in decision-making across city departments and mobilizing artists to increase civic engagement.
- Developing a process that empowers community voices.

The plan could also better define the role of a cabinet level position for the arts, and might even identify a Chief of Arts & Culture (Arts Czar) to foster arts in the city.