



2024 Candidate Arts Survey Responses

Kristin Christensen

District:

Candidate's Website:

The State of Nebraska has content area standards in the fine arts, which include media arts, visual arts, dance, music, and theatre. How important do you think it is for students to have access to arts education courses?

(essential, high priority, medium priority, low priority, not a priority)

Essential

Since the pandemic, there has been a shortage of teachers, especially in rural areas. The teacher shortage is directly impacting access to arts education.

How important do you think it is for our state to focus on teacher recruitment and retention in order to provide content-specific certified teachers in the arts?

(essential, high priority, medium priority, low priority, not a priority)

Essential

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the Nebraska Arts Council (NAC) – whose mission is to support the arts, humanities and creative activities in Nebraska?

(very aware, moderately aware, slightly aware, not aware)

Very aware

In FY2023-24, the Nebraska Arts Council invested \$2.6 million in state general appropriations in grants and services across the state to support arts programs and access, arts education programs, and supporting local arts councils and organizations. Most grant dollars required a 1:1 match from private sources. Which statement below best reflects your view?

(Increase in state funding, receive the same amount, decrease in state funding, no opinion at this time)

The NAC should receive an increase in state funding in the coming fiscal year.

What is the impact level of having a vibrant and active creative arts culture in Nebraska in enticing and keeping high school and college/university graduates to stay in the state after they graduate? *(high impact, moderate impact, slight impact, no impact)*

High Impact

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that the arts and culture sector contributed \$3.6 billion to Nebraska's economy in 2022, representing 2.21% of the state's GDP, 31,228 jobs,

and total compensation of \$2.1 billion. How important do you feel state appropriations and policies to advance Nebraska's creative industries (including arts, cultural, historical, humanities, science, and arts education resources) are in relation to creating a strong economic future for Nebraska? *(very important, moderately important, slightly important, not at all important)*

Very important

Nebraska adults have one of the highest participation rate in the U.S. in annually attending an art exhibit or arts performance. Is there a specific arts or culture organization in your part of the state that you or your family particularly enjoy, or do you have an artistic talent or hobby? *(yes, no)*

If yes, please list your talent/hobby and your favorite arts organization(s) here:

I enjoy going to Lux Center for the Arts (Art Fest and youth art class), Kiewit Luminarium, and Lied Center with my family.

Additional Comments from the candidate:

As a teacher and mother deeply invested in the future of Nebraska, I believe supporting the arts and humanities is essential for our state's cultural and economic growth. Investing in these areas not only enriches our community life but also provides invaluable opportunities for our children. Encouraging artistic expression nurtures creativity and attracts talented individuals, making Nebraska a more vibrant and appealing place to live and grow. For the sake of our students and the next generation, it's crucial that we continue to champion and support the arts.