



**ARTSVOTE
2024**



2024 Candidate Arts Survey Responses

Mary Ann Folchert

State Legislative District: 31

Candidate's Website: electmaryannfolchert.com

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)

Moderately 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 the same amount of state funding in the coming fiscal year.

How aware are you of the Nebraska Cultural Endowment and the Cultural Preservation Endowment Fund (CPEF)? *(very aware, moderately aware, slightly aware, not aware)*

Slightly aware

The State of Nebraska has curriculum standards in the fine arts, which include art, music, theater, dance, and media arts. However, we have a teacher shortage 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)

High priority

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

How aware are you with the Nebraska Creative District program? Are you aware there are currently 30 certified Creative Districts that are driving economic development in their community. *(very aware, moderately aware, slightly aware, not aware)*

Slightly aware

There are currently 30 certified Creative Districts that are driving economic development in their community. Do you know if one of your communities in your legislative district is a certified Creative District? *(yes, no, not aware at this time)*

Not aware at this time

Nebraska adults have one of the highest participation rates 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

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

My family and I enjoy the vibrant art community here in Omaha. We enjoy the Omaha Community Playhouse, Blubarn, and the Omaha Performing Arts as well as museums like Joslyn and creative spots like the Hot Shops downtown. My children have benefitted from instruction in the arts and enjoy expressing themselves artistically.

Additional Comments from the candidate:

I recognize and value the importance of the arts community, both culturally, historically, and economically. A thriving arts community helps us tell our stories and is a draw for young people especially. The investment is well justified. Thank you for reaching out and providing me this opportunity to respond to your questions.