



2024 Candidate Arts Survey Responses

Nick Batter

State Legislative District: **13**

Candidate's Website: nickbatter.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)

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 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)*

Moderately 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)

Essential

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)*

Very 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)*

Yes

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:

I am a strong supporter of my community theater group, the Florentine Players, and have served on their parent organization board. My wife and I frequently volunteer to serve food or bartend during their shows. I also volunteer many hours in support of an art space hosted at the Florence Mill, run by local artist Linda Meigs.

Additional Comments from the candidate:

One of my first steps of launching my campaign was hiring a local artist, Jared Rawlings, to chose a color set and design a brand for my campaign. I believe that how we run our campaign is how we will ultimately serve in the legislature, and I am proud to be one of the few campaigns in our state to have worked with local artists on my campaign (both Jared, and with another painter on an upcoming campaign project coming soon!).