



## 2024 Candidate Arts Survey Responses

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### Tony Vargas

**District:** House of Representatives - District 2

**Candidate's Website:** [vargasfornebraska.com](http://vargasfornebraska.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 an increase in state funding in the coming fiscal year.

**Are you aware that the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, is required to distribute 40 percent of its budget to state arts agencies? These funds increase the Arts Council's grant budget by 35 percent.** *(very aware, moderately aware, slightly aware, not aware)*

Moderately aware

**The State of Nebraska has curriculum standards in the fine arts, which includes 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

**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)*

Yes

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

My family and I absolutely love all of the amazing arts organizations around Omaha. From large organizations like the Orpheum & Rose Theatre's or the Joslyn Museum, to small community based spaces like the Bancroft Street Market.

**Additional Comments from the candidate:**