Gary Black  
P.O. Box 1700  
Commerce, GA 30529  

September 10, 2018  

Dear Gary Black:  

On behalf of the Georgia Arts Network and the Georgia Arts and Culture Venues Coalition, we are asking all candidates for statewide elected office the following questions. The responses will be shared in full with our respective newsletter subscribers and social media followers as well as shared on our website. We thank you in advance and look forward to sharing your responses with our constituencies.  

Please return your completed survey either in the enclosed envelope or by sending your responses to president@gaartsnetwork.org.  

Sincerely,  

Jessica Akers  

Jessica Akers, President, Georgia Arts Network  

Would you please share your personal involvement in arts and culture (such as being an artist/performer, attending various events, supporting a spouse/child as they pursue the arts, donating to local organizations, or other items that may be personal to you)?  

I enjoy all types of music. I sing publicly and lead music for morning worship. I believe an active, diverse exposure to the arts is vital to a well-rounded life.  

According to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies FY2019 State Arts Agency Legislative Appropriation Preview (http://bit.ly/nasaa19), Georgia ranks 49th in per capita funding for our State Arts Agency. Do you believe that this is an appropriate level of investment? And why or why not?  

In my capacity, I do not have jurisdiction over funding.  

The mission of the Georgia Arts Network is to strengthen, connect, and advocate for the arts in Georgia.  

Georgia Arts Network, P.O. Box 244191, Atlanta, GA 30324  
gaartsnetwork.org
What are your goals for arts education in our public school systems?

Again, my decision do not typically involve arts education. I have formed a wonderful relationship with the community of Sylvan and an artist named Sam X. Sam is using the community garden to teach art. It is a very encouraging project.

Do you support the statewide legalization of gaming at casino resorts?

NO

According to industry consultant CSL’s 2016 analysis of the Casino Impact on Performing Arts Venues (http://bit.ly/CSLCasinoStudy), there is a negative impact on existing local arts and cultural entertainment venues when casino-owned and funded entertainment venues are constructed in the market. Were you aware of this detrimental consequence? Do you think these civic assets deserve formal protection?

Yes

Other states that have legalized casino gaming have included language in the legislation to protect local arts and cultural facilities, including provisions to prohibit or limit the capacity of entertainment venues housed at casino resorts. Would you introduce protection for Georgia’s arts and culture facilities? If so, what would you propose?

I prefer that Georgia remain free of casino gambling.

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