Micah Gravley  
94 Bridge Pl.  
Douglasville, GA 30134 - 6112

September 10, 2018

Dear Micah Gravley:

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 grew up participating in musical theater. I was also very active in performing arts in college and live theater as part of Douglas County’s CASA Productions for a season. I’ve been supportive of the Douglas County Cultural Arts Center as well, including the

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?

I wasn’t aware of Georgia’s ranking among other states. I would like to look at the funding models in other states and how they are funding State Arts.

The mission of the Georgia Arts Network is to strengthen, connect, and advocate for the arts in Georgia.
What are your goals for arts education in our public school systems?

1. I benefitted greatly from arts education during my years in public school. I believe it played a significant role in rounding out my overall educational experience and prepared me to utilize my right brain creativity when critically thinking about academic problem solving.
2. I would work to protect and enhance arts education.

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?

1. Yes, I was aware of the detrimental consequences that industry has on venues and local art houses and cultural entertainment venues.
2. Yes, local governments are the deciding factor.

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 would certainly look at proposed measures to protect local arts and cultural facilities, should a casino bill come forward. Again, I would oppose any casino legislation.

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