



Dear Candidate:

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 to either president@gaartsnetwork.org or the PO Box below.

Sincerely,

Jessica Akers

Jessica Akers, President, Georgia Arts Network

Candidate Name: Travis Klavohn

For which office are you running? State Senate, District 38

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)?

My family and I are quite involved in the arts. My mother was an artist while I was growing up. Now that she is retired, she has taken up art full time. Her media includes watercolor, oil, acrylic, and photography. Her work has been featured regularly in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, my home town. My two sons are trained in classical violin as well as guitar and piano. My grandmother was a professionally trained opera singer and music director of her church at Fort Bragg Army Base in North Carolina. My father's first cousin was a concert violinist with the New York Chamber Orchestra in the 1960's. As a child, I was surrounded by artists, poets, musicians, writers, and actors. I am also an artist of a kind. I am a lifetime amateur musician (guitar, mandolin, violin). A carpenter at heart, my practice of the trade has evolved to designing and build wooden boats from historical designs. Each boat I build is a one-of-a-kind creation inspired by heroic people that I have known.

According to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies FY2019 State Arts Agency Legislative Appropriation Preview, 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 support funding for the arts and believe that Georgia should invest more. Investing in the arts is beneficial in many ways such as increasing the quality of life, stimulating intellectual and creative thinking, improving critical thinking of young people, and spurring economic development. The last of these, economic development, is often overlooked as a positive benefit of investments in the arts. Certain depressed areas of Georgia could benefit greatly from artist or artisan colonies.

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
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What are your goals for arts education in our public school systems?

Fine arts need to be preserved in public schools. I am a strong supporter of vocational education such as shop class in public schools. While not particularly fine arts, I believe artisan crafts such as wood working have many of the same qualities of fine arts. Chief among these are the tutorship of discipline, appreciation of beauty, and critical thinking skills which last a lifetime.

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

No, I do not support casinos in Georgia.

According to industry consultant CSL's 2016 analysis of the Casino Impact on Performing Arts Venues, 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, I am very aware of the negative impact casinos have on local arts venues. Gambling is the opposite of beauty in my opinion. I have also spent a good deal of time in communities which have legalized gambling and see how gambling destroys culture.

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 believe the best way to protect civic assets is to keep gambling out of Georgia. But, if legalization were to pass, I would be open to supporting protections for civic assets.

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