



Brian Strickland
P.O. Box 1895
McDonough, GA 30253

September 10, 2018

Dear Brian Strickland:

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)?

Personally, I have always played music from piano at an early age to guitar. I still play guitar. I have been a part of a local arts program that works with at-risk youth called ArtReach (80) through Crosswalk Ministries.

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?

No. We need to invest more in the Arts.

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?

for the state to provide more funding and incentives for local boards to implement more programs.

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

not in the current form being proposed and probably not ever.

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 this is one of my biggest concerns with casino gambling facilities.

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?

If I am going to support casino gambling, I will have to see similar protections built in the legislation.

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