



Dear Candidates:

Thank you participating in the ArtsVote Niagara 2006 survey. It should take between 10 and 20 minutes depending upon how you choose to respond to the questions. It is comprised primarily of multiple choice or short word answers.

Section # 1

All Candidates, General Questions - 9 questions

Section # 2

All City of St. Catharines Candidates - 9 questions

Section # 3

All Regional and Mayoralty Candidates - 3 questions

Section # 4

All School Board Candidates - 4 questions

Section # 5

All Candidates, Comments and Resume - 7 questions

Section # 6

All Candidates, Contact Information - 6 questions

Please, at minimum, fill out the "All Candidates" sections and the section that applies to the office you are seeking. All candidates are welcome to complete *all* sections of the survey.

The results will be tabulated and each candidate will be assigned a grade based on the survey, voting record while in office, past participation and public position statements. The report card on all the candidates will be widely distributed throughout the cultural sector in the Niagara Peninsula.

The deadline for return of the survey is November 1, 2006 at 4:00 pm.



SECTION #1 - GENERAL QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY ALL CANDIDATES

THERE ARE QUESTIONS FOR ALL CANDIDATES, REGIONAL CANDIDATES, MAYORALTY CANDIDATES AND SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES ON THIS SURVEY. PLEASE COMPLETE ALL RELEVANT SECTIONS.

1. What are the ways in which you participate in locally based arts, cultural and heritage activities in the Region of Niagara and City of St. Catharines? Check all that apply:

| | Never | Rarely | Occasionally | Frequently | Regularly |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Donations to organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Volunteer work | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Attendance to events | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Board service | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Collector of local art | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Membership in an organization | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. What memberships in local arts or cultural organizations have you held in the last three years?

3. What was the last performing arts activity you attended?

4. What was the last visual arts or museum exhibit you attended?

5. What was the last heritage tour you experienced or heritage site you visited?



6. What book are you reading at present?

7. What are the ways in which you experience locally based arts, cultural and heritage activities in the Region of Niagara and City of St. Catharines? Check all that apply:

| | Never | Rarely | Occasionally | Frequently | Regularly |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Museums | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Libraries | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dance | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Galleries | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Theatre | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Bands | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dinner Theatre | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Film Festivals | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic Sites | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Music | <input type="checkbox"/> |



8. While many of the following statements may be true to some extent, please indicate to what extent the following statements represent your view.

| | Not at all | Not Sure | Somewhat True | Agreed | Absolutely! |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| The arts are a real mystery to me; they tend to be elitist and, unlike sports, don't engage a lot of people. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts tend to appeal only to people who have particular talents. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts and arts infrastructure are enjoyed by some people in the community, but they are a recreational pursuit that should be sustainable without public support. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts hold limited interest for me because they are not part of my background, but I remain open-minded. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts are an alternative type of recreational activity for some people in our community and should continue to receive a basic level of public subsidy from the municipality. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts are important for their role in the economic revitalization of downtowns. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts are important for their role as community gathering places that reinforce the social fabric of our community and our sense of belonging. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts are important for fostering our relationships with each other and forging our sense of individual and community identity. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts are important for their unique ability to encourage human creativity and a cultural legacy. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The arts are important for all the ways they inspire ideas, innovation and a greater understanding of humankind | <input type="checkbox"/> |

9. Culture has a role to play in the following municipal services (check all that apply):

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Parks and Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Economic Development | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tourism | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Public Works | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| All of the above | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| None of the above. My view point is... | <input type="checkbox"/> |



SECTION # 2 - ALL CITY OF ST. CATHARINES CANDIDATES, PLEASE RESPOND

If this section does not apply to you, please go to Section #3.

10. The City’s Recreation and Community Services Department has recently established a Performing Arts Centre Task Force to update its last feasibility study for the project. Do you think that:

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| The development of a performing arts venue in St. Catharines should be a private sector initiative. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The creation of a performing arts centre should join the list of identified recreational facilities lacking in St. Catharines. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The City should seriously review partnership opportunities to provide accessible performing arts facilities for the community. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| The updating of a feasibility study should be prioritized and fast tracked, with resources allocated to ensure a speedy process. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| None of the above. My view point is... | <input type="checkbox"/> |

11. In light of the imminent plans for new hospital to St. Catharines, do you believe that:

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Any funding currently provided by the City to the cultural sector should be considered a frill and be reduced or eliminated altogether. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cultural spending continues to be a priority but must be assessed carefully and expect to hold the line at its current level for the next five years. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cultural spending continues to contribute to the quality of life of our citizens and should be maintained and perhaps increased modestly, should a positive impact analysis from the programs be forthcoming. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cultural spending should be reviewed for opportunities to increase the municipal investment in the health and well-being of our citizens while encouraging positive attitudes and stimulating creative output. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| None of the above. My view point is... | <input type="checkbox"/> |



12. The City established a St. Catharines Cultural Investment Program in 2004 to serve the arts, heritage and ethnocultural communities of St. Catharines. How would you assess the success of this program (check all that apply):

- The assessment of success should be finite – the program should be cut back or eliminated when organizations have received sufficient support to increase their capacity.
- Any sign of success should be touted, but should not have an impact on increasing or decreasing the level of funding available.
- Assess the number of new dollars generated by the recipient organizations.
- Assess the number of jobs created
- Assess the level of demand and determine whether an increase to the program’s budget is warranted.
- Finance the definition and assessment of the presence, participation, impacts and systems of support for arts and culture in our communities.
- None of the above. My view point is...

13. Graffiti has been identified as a high priority issue for citizens of St. Catharines. Do you think the next phase of tackling this issue should include (check all that apply):

- Increasing punishment for offenders.
- Enforcing current graffiti laws.
- Requiring offenders to serve some or all of their community hours within a local arts organization.
- Encouraging the addition of a professional artist in the Mayor’s Graffiti Task Force to contribute new perspectives and solutions for the problem.
- Creating one or more “free” walls in St. Catharines to allow for a pre-allocated place for youth to express themselves.
- Investigating innovative community initiatives, such as a mural creation project that will provide job opportunities for youth and encourage neighbourhood beautification while reducing the likelihood of graffiti.
- None of the above. My view point is...



14. Many municipalities believe they have a role to play in the development of public art projects, in the form of temporary or permanent sculptural installations or art exhibits, to ensure that all citizens have the experience of public art in public places. Do you believe that:

Public art does not benefit our community and when developed it has proven to be a burden to the taxpayer when issues of maintenance and restoration arise.

If the community is interested in public art they should make it happen – through the donations by individuals and corporate sponsorship.

Public art would be an asset to our community and the City should consider leveraging private sector options when developers are seeking re-zoning.

Public art is important to improving the aesthetics of our community and a program in St. Catharines should be developed by the City. The model of allocating 1% of all capital projects to public art should be seriously explored.

None of the above. My view point is...

15. In 2003, Rodman Hall Arts Centre and all its assets were sold to Brock University for \$1. Do you think that:

The choice of Brock University as owner and manager of these community assets was ideal.

The City should have stepped in and taken over the ownership and management of Rodman Hall for the benefit of the community.

A wider collaboration with the community should have been undertaken and other ownership/management scenarios should have been explored, such as the Niagara Parks Commission or the City of St. Catharines.

The community should have had the opportunity to re-constitute the community board of management.

None of the above. My view point is...



16. Not-for-profit theatre facilities were legislated property tax exempt by the Province of Ontario in 1998. St. Catharines continued to tax theatres after the exemption was passed. Would you support a refund of some kind to the charitably registered companies (Niagara Artists Company and Carousel Players) that were charged and paid taxes in error?

- Yes
- No

17. Do you support collaboration with City Cultural staff and the cultural sector on development proposals and other issues that directly affect this sector?

- Yes
- No

18. Many artists rely on alternative modes of transportation, such as bicycling and walking. Moreover, access to a number of heritage sites are only accessible by bicycle or walking, for instance the historic Welland Canals. Do you believe that:

- Communities that are bicycle- and walking-friendly have nothing to do with the arts.
- Bicycling and walking should only be considered as: a low-income transportation alternative for those who cannot afford motorized transport; or only as a means of healthy active recreation.
- The municipality should play a role in inter-municipal relations in the development and implementation of a regional bicycle and trail strategy.
- Artists, businesses and local citizens benefit economically, physically, mentally, and environmentally from the infrastructure investments that contribute to a walkable and bikeable community, especially when walking and bicycling are linked to the artistic and heritage aesthetics of the community.
- None of the above. My view point is...



SECTION #3 - ALL REGION OF NIAGARA CANDIDATES, INCLUDING MAYORALTY CANDIDATES, PLEASE RESPOND

If this section does not apply to you, please go to Section #4.

19. The Regional Municipality of Niagara has recently established a Culture Committee of citizens and councillors to undertake the development of a Regional Cultural Policy and Strategy. Do you think that:

- The Region is not mandated for culture, unlike lower-tier municipalities and should therefore not be undertaking this work.
- The Policy and Strategy are worth exploring in relation to cultural tourism and economic development opportunities.
- The Region should play a role in inter-municipal relations in the cultural planning and policy development in particular to support municipalities with limited resources.
- The development of a cultural policy and strategy is essential to the development of a regional cultural identity and to increasing regional cohesion.
- None of the above. My view point is...

20. Some municipalities or municipal agencies have developed subsidized housing or live/work space for artists as a means of reducing waiting lists for subsidized housing while simultaneously bringing low income artists into an area that can benefit from gentrification. Do you believe that:

- Many artists are well educated and therefore low income by choice; they should not be eligible for units in low income housing developments.
- Artists should not be distinguished from other members of the population seeking subsidized housing.
- The development of live/work space should be assessed and undertaken by local arts organizations.
- Subsidized live/work space for artists is an opportunity that should be explored by the Region.
- None of the above. My view point is...



21. The Bicentennial of the War of 1812 is inspiring the cultural community of Niagara to consider options for its celebration. Should the Niagara Region:

Maintain a healthy distance from the event given its cultural content, since the Region is not mandated to work with the cultural sector.

Encourage tourism staff to play a support role in the event, leaving the primary organizing and coordination to the Parks Commissions and heritage community of Niagara.

Dedicate staff resources to encourage local initiatives, communicate with local municipalities and consider infrastructure opportunities related to the cultural sector.

Lead the development of arts, cultural and heritage activities and infrastructure for this event, dedicating staff resources to the celebrations to coordinate municipalities involved and maximize the impact, funding opportunities and tourism marketing initiatives.

None of the above. My view point is...



SECTION #4 - ALL SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES, PLEASE RESPOND

If this section does not apply to you, please go to Section #5.

22. What is your view of professional arts in the education system?

Exposure to professional arts and artists is a recreational diversion and has no place in the education system.

Professional art has its place in education, but we cannot take valuable teaching time during school hours to experience it. It is an extra curricular activity.

Professional art is important and it would benefit children to experience it, but it is not a funding priority.

Exposure to professional art is a core activity in the development of children and the School Board should work to find the resources to provide access for all children.

None of the above. My view point is...

23. What is your position on professional artists teaching in the education system?

Professional artists have no place in the education system.

Art can be a tool for teaching core subjects, but only trained teachers should work with students. Students who have an aptitude for art should it explore it outside of school time.

Professional artists are welcome to participate as volunteers in after-school programs.

Professional artists have a great deal to offer children and need to be a part of education system.

None of the above. My view point is...



24. Is it more important for students to practice art or watch professional artists?

- Neither is that important in the context of today’s education system. Art is a recreational diversion and has no important place in the education system.
- Art can be a good teaching tool, but only if used in conjunction with other subjects. It is more important for children to practice art than experience professional art.
- It is more important for children to experience high quality art, than to practice it. Attending high quality art is more important than doing it at school.
- Experiencing high quality art and practicing it are both very important. They have equal, but different benefits for the child and both should be a part of the education system.
- None of the above. My view point is...

25. What is your view on museum or cultural attraction student visits?

- The school board cannot afford visits to museum or cultural attractions.
- Visits to museums and other cultural attractions are a good idea but the students have to raise the money.
- The school board supports visits to museums or other cultural attractions as an award for the students at the end of the school term.
- Student visits to museums or cultural attractions are an excellent learning opportunity any time of the year. Furthermore, the visits are an excellent educational initiative that is supported financially by the school board.
- None of the above. My view point is...



SECTION #5 - CANDIDATE’S COMMENTS, POSITION STATEMENTS and RESUME

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS TO BE PROVIDED BY ALL CANDIDATES

26. Candidates are encouraged to provide any further comments or position statements on arts or arts-related cultural, multi-cultural and heritage issues and priorities, including relevant education, work experience and volunteer work.

| | |
|--|----------|
| | Arts |
| Comments - Position Statements/Voting Track Record/ on : | Culture |
| | Heritage |
| Relevant education, work experience, volunteerism, service | |
| References in campaign literature | |

27. What electoral office are you seeking?

28. Upon completion I will forward my resume to info@artsvoteniagara.com

- Yes
- No

29. I do not have a resume, please refer to my biography on-line.

- Yes
- No

www.

30. Please refer to my website.

- Yes
- No

31. Website:

www.
