

ARTISTS + CANDIDATES - ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL



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THIS DISCUSSION ALIGNS WITH OUR FUTURE ATLANTA'S POLICY FOCUS ON ARTS AND CULTURE.



District 1

Name: Bill Powell - Candidate Atlanta City Council District 1

Who do you consider Atlanta's Cultural leaders? Art is a great benefit to urban environs. It nourishes and represents its citizens as a refined culture. I love the murals in this City. The presence of art I find to be refreshingly calming in what is often times a very hectic pace of city life. Unfortunately, I do not know any Cultural leaders. However, I can most affirmatively say, I appreciate their contribution.

Considering such models as L.A. and Detroit (to name a few) that incorporate artists into planning and city government, what presence do you see for local artists in city government work beyond Contracts for Arts Services through OCA, Elevate, and city commissions? I will support a one percent of total project cost set aside for inclusion for art installations within, on, or surrounding any new construction of City buildings and other facilities.

How do you plan to work with city council to protect the ways artists work in this city? (Some initiatives on our radar: removing barriers to small business development for artists and entrepreneurs; protection of free speech; freelancer benefits similar to NYC)? Freedom of speech can be a difficult tightrope to walk, and my greatest reservation of any public art project approval. I am a fan of Robert Mapplethorpe and very much remember the Cincinnati situation, and subsequent Federal case. As a Councilman, a legislative body, I will require community approval of all art projects through the established NPU process. While we wish to nurture and display public art, we have a duty to protect the interest and desires of community. As for small business barriers, I am not familiar with any. I know that Federal law establishes and promotes small business participation with many government projects. Unfortunately, ones occupation is not protected class with the assignment or establishment of a small business.

How do you plan to include individual artists/freelancers in policies and programs to provide affordable housing and workspace? As referenced above, ones occupation is not a protected class for the assignment of housing qualifications. Housing programs and benefits shall be available to everyone of every occupation that meets the established income requirement of household-size and AMI threshold.

District 2

Name: Amir Farokhi

Who do you consider Atlanta's Cultural leaders? Fahamu Pecou, Chris Appleton, Doug Shipman, Monica Campana, Lain Shakespeare & Mail Chimp, Lisa Cremin, A3C, Bem Joiner, Susannah Darrow

Considering such models as L.A. and Detroit (to name a few) that incorporate artists into planning and city government, what presence do you see for local artists in city government work beyond Contracts for Arts Services through OCA, Elevate, and city commissions? I'd like to see the Mayor have an Artist-in-Residence in Mayor's Office and/or in each City department to help apply an arts lens to policy-making. Personally, I will dedicate some of my budget to an Artist-in-Residence in my District 2 office. Moreover, the City can hire artists as liaisons between a construction project and local residents and invite artists to be part of the design team of public projects.

I also think there is opportunity to use City Hall and City property as spaces for exhibition of traditional and performance art. All placemaking should incorporate the arts into public spaces in a meaningful and equitable way.

Additionally, I'd like to see the City expand its ""percent for art"" program to apply to private developments as well as public ones: an ordinance that sets aside and collects 1% of City-funded construction projects be spent on public artwork and that 1% of the construction cost of private development, receiving any public assistance, be set aside for on-site public art.



How do you plan to work with city council to protect the ways artists work in this city? (Some initiatives on our radar: removing barriers to small business development for artists and entrepreneurs; protection of free speech; freelancer benefits similar to NYC)? "I will push for the City to direct InvestAtlanta to ensure that traditional economic development tools, such as incubators and grant programs, support the arts industry. I will also work with my fellow council members to identify approaches and property that might be ideal for arts business incubation and to incentivize developments that house or serve artists to maintain their affordability even if market forces drive up property values.

And, like New York City, yes, we should explore codifying freelancer benefits and protections such as the right to written contracts, timely payment, and freedom from retaliation.

How do you plan to include individual artists/freelancers in policies and programs to provide affordable housing and workspace? I will push for:

1. Fractional equity housing opportunity for artists who live in certain developments as well as dedicated artist-housing in select neighborhoods;
2. Artist eligibility for Housing Opportunity Bond and Beltline Affordable Housing Trust Fund; and
3. The passage of an Atlanta CREATES! Act that: supports and incentivizes development of affordable housing for creatives; direct InvestAtlanta to ensure that traditional economic development tools, such as incubators and grant programs, support the arts industry; and creates an artist-in-residence program at the City.

Fundamentally, more affordable housing is good for artists and non-artists alike. We need to be mindful of developing spaces that aren't just affordable but that lend themselves to artistic work as well.

Name: Zelda Jackson

Who do you consider Atlanta's Cultural leaders? Umi Says Photography

Considering such models as L.A. and Detroit (to name a few) that incorporate artists into planning and city government, what presence do you see for local artists in city government work beyond Contracts for Arts Services through OCA, Elevate, and city commissions? I would like to see Graffiti Artists using their talents in murals, and Pop Up Shops all over Atlanta.

How do you plan to work with fellow council members and the Mayor's Office to protect the ways artists work in this city? (Some initiatives on our radar: removing barriers to small business development for artists and entrepreneurs; protection of free speech; freelancer benefits similar to NYC)? First, giving incentives to land owners for Local Artist providing living space; eg. which will consist of an Artist row where one can have work/living space, and a gallery. Second, authoring legislation for Pop Up shops on the Beltline, Marta Stations & Bus Stops, and lastly I would love to establish Atlanta Fashion Week!

How do you plan to include individual artists/freelancers in policies and programs to provide affordable housing and workspace? Wow! I just answered this question...Sorry beat you to the punch. Lol!

Name: Lauren Welsh

Who do you consider Atlanta's Cultural leaders? Lauri Stallings, Monica Campana, Kenny Leon, Andre 3000

Considering such models as L.A. and Detroit (to name a few) that incorporate artists into planning and city government, what presence do you see for local artists in city government work beyond Contracts for Arts Services through OCA, Elevate, and city commissions? First of all, I believe that the arts are an absolutely essential aspect of a thriving, vibrant city, and Atlanta has an incredible depth and diversity of artists, from music to the visual arts, from dance to theater, from the underground to the establishment, and across racial and socioeconomic lines. These artists contribute fundamentally to what makes our city special, and their community



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building enlivens, supports, and sometimes helps to create our neighborhoods in organic ways that no city could ever plan or coordinate. Yet the City does not do enough to prioritize and invest in our artists and arts organizations. Though some City programs in recent years, such as Elevate, have engaged the arts community directly, we need far more consistent, deep interaction between the City and the arts community, particularly at a grassroots level. And we also need to make sure the City doesn't get in the way of a vibrant arts scene that explicitly seeks to build and sustain community, as recent misguided efforts to control public art or crack down on recording studios have done.

As a councilmember, I will oppose any such efforts to over regulate the arts, and I will support all efforts to invest in artists that are contributing to the fabric of our City. I will work to establish year-round engagement with the grassroots arts communities, staging programs like Elevate more often, in more neighborhoods, and with more promotion and investment from the City. And I will advocate for policies that help artists live and work in the City and in emerging or recovering neighborhoods, like affordable housing and direct investment in small, community owned businesses, with specific funding set aside for local arts. I want to ensure that the next time we see real grassroots engagement in a community like South Downtown, the City is involved from the beginning, supporting innovative artists, helping them integrate into the fabric of the existing community, and making sure they can continue to be a part of the growth and development they help create.

The City can't do this kind of work without real engagement with the arts community. That's why I'll create an Arts Advisory Committee - made up of members and leaders of the arts community, not just from established institutions but from across the range of the community - to lead the conversation about how Atlanta's arts and culture shape the story of our city and how we should build upon that incredible foundation through support, investment, and promotion. This will be the core of a new set of policies, starting with those above, drafted specifically to nurture Atlanta's creatives by investing in individuals and organizations, particularly at the earliest stages of development.

How do you plan to work with fellow council members and the Mayor's Office to protect the ways artists work in this city? (Some initiatives on our radar: removing barriers to small business development for artists and entrepreneurs; protection of free speech; freelancer benefits similar to NYC)? As our next City Council member, I will work with other members of the Council to research and create a dedicated funding stream for the arts. This might take the form of a parking fee, a blight fee, or a wholly new idea - but I will be sure it is administered equitably and at the direction of a diverse group of arts community members. I will also ensure the City supports arts organizations' revenue streams by investing significantly in Atlanta's transportation and safety, particularly in areas where burgeoning arts scenes are already growing up, to ensure broad audiences and exposure. Perhaps most importantly, I will always promote the arts - and particularly grassroots artists working on building community, such as Living Walls - on Council, and I will work to help negotiate conflicts and perceived disagreements to forge compromises among community interests, to help make sure other council members can serve their constituents without needlessly targeting the arts community. This is a critical part of my overall vision to bring greater transparency and accountability to City Hall, along with a commitment to real leadership in promoting projects the City should be investing in, and to find productive compromise where there is pushback.

Relatedly, I will never allow the city to review or regulate what constitutes art or artistic expression. I will always stand strongly against efforts like the recent "public art" legislation to impose blanket controls on art that enriches the community but may not be universally praised. Instead, I will be sure the City supports artists and the arts and nurtures their contributions to our city.

Finally, I am deeply opposed to bringing casino gambling into our state and will continue to work with elected officials on all levels to protect our local economy, and particularly our arts community, from such powerful outside competition.

How do you plan to include individual artists/freelancers in policies and programs to provide affordable housing and workspace? I think this issue is absolutely critical, and it's a key area the City has not done enough in recently. We have missed tremendous opportunities, as in South Downtown, to invest in and support grassroots artists who are helping to build up communities the City has for too long overlooked. A top priority of my Arts Advisory Committee will be to identify areas where artists are already helping to invest in and reinvigorate disinvested



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neighborhoods and determine the best ways to support those artists, help them integrate into the existing community, and support them in developing an ownership stake to reward their investment and provide them an opportunity to put down roots and benefit from the change they create. This will involve not just direct investment where appropriate but also support and negotiation with property owners and other stakeholders, as well as possible direct support through City services like transportation, safety, waste management, and the like. If the City can do more to identify and nurture those - especially, but not just, artists - who are making community-based efforts to build up our community, we'll be doing the right thing and getting far greater return on investment than with many of the big corporate projects we've tended to focus on for too long. For me this clearly is not just about supporting the arts – it's about recognizing and investing in a major part of what really matters about the arts: their ability to create culture and community, something no city can do on its own.

Separate from investing in artists and arts organizations that are already doing this work, we need to help create opportunities for artists who may be coming to the city or who are already priced out of the city by investing in and creating opportunities for artists to live and work affordably across the city. When I am on City Council, I will make sure the ongoing zoning rewrite and related policies create not just far more affordable housing and opportunities for small-scale, community-based entrepreneurship, but also specific opportunities and incentives for artists and arts organizations. Nashville has a great example of this kind of effort, with their new program that allows low- to moderate-income artists to take out low-interest loans to purchase existing buildings to rehab them or for new builds. I'll also make sure the City invests in and provides incentives for private developers to create both commercial and residential space dedicated to the arts, with programs aimed at subsidizing rents for artists who contribute to the community, particularly in both neighborhoods that need more activity and in those where it's becoming too expensive for emerging artists to live and work. One commendable example is New York Mayor Bill de Blasio's plans to provide approximately 1,500 fully subsidized affordable housing units for artists and musicians by 2025. Finally, I'll work to create a program where artists work with our Fulton/Atlanta Land Bank to revitalize distressed or vacant properties, and I'll make sure the City identifies dis- or under-used City-owned properties that can be adapted to provide highly affordable space for artists and arts organizations, again particularly in areas where this will best serve both the artists and the community.

I'm also excited about other fresh, new ways of experimenting with affordable housing to help put a stop to creatives continually getting priced out of Atlanta - and it's high time we came up with options that go beyond the same, stale federal low-income housing tax credit that gives private developers an incentive to create low-income housing.

I would love to see Atlanta do something close to what New Orleans is doing in their construction of the Bell Artspace Campus, an ambitious, \$37 million space for musicians and artists to live and work in created through a combination of tax credits, philanthropic donations and dedicated city revenue. So, along with the smaller, more community-oriented work that will be its priority, my Arts Advisory Committee will also investigate potential areas where this kind of larger project may work - especially as a part of major projects, like Underground, that have for too long been aimed only at for-profit, large-scale outside investment.

Name: Nick Mulkey

Who do you consider Atlanta's Cultural leaders? Some of Atlanta's cultural leaders include the likes of, Killer Mike, Fahamu Pecou, Earthgang, Monica Campana from Living Walls, Priscilla Smith fmr director of Eye Drum, Dad's Garage, 7 stages and few others.

Considering such models as L.A. and Detroit (to name a few) that incorporate artists into planning and city government, what presence do you see for local artists in city government work beyond Contracts for Arts Services through OCA, Elevate, and city commissions? I believe that increasing how frequently we program our public spaces with more vibrant and eclectic activity is key and our artists will play a major part in that. Additionally I believe that artists will have a major role in welcoming and acclimating our new residents to the



culture and community expectations of the city. I would like to see us host a routine, welcome to Atlanta event that will serve as an orientation for new residents. I think that we should allow our artists to program such an event so that new residents are immediately doused in the culture of the city.

How do you plan to work with fellow council members and the Mayor's Office to protect the ways artists work in this city? (Some initiatives on our radar: removing barriers to small business development for artists and entrepreneurs; protection of free speech; freelancer benefits similar to NYC)? I have a firm belief that we must do the work of planning how our residents can move up the socio-economic mobility ladder. A key component of that is understanding the career cycle for artists and creating a system that supports that. I would work with my fellow councilmen and the administration to promote that support via the following ways 1. Artist specific housing that will serve as the nerve centers of our arts communities, and allow for our artists to remain in the city, 2. Convene a working group that will consistently inform leadership of issues and challenges that artists face in creating and marketing their work. This group would not only consist of large arts organizations but also artists who are interesting in providing feedback.

How do you plan to include individual artists/freelancers in policies and programs to provide affordable housing and workspace? I plan on directing Invest Atlanta to provide TAD funding to create artist targeted housing that is combined with programming for artists development and onsite markets. In this way we could build havens for artists and make it easier for them to produce, collaborate, and sell their work.

District 4

Name: Jason Dozier

Who do you consider Atlanta's Cultural leaders? Despite the fact that Atlanta is rapidly changing, our music industry still plays a major role in defining how our city is perceived culturally. While new and up-and-coming artists get the lion's share of international attention, artists that came-of-age in the 1990s continue to define Atlanta's cultural legacy. The Dungeon Family (especially artists like Killer Mike and Big Boi) is a wonderful collective of musicians, but it's incredible to recognize their impact in film, television, and even in Atlanta's political and policy conversations.

Considering such models as L.A. and Detroit (to name a few) that incorporate artists into planning and city government, what presence do you see for local artists in city government work beyond Contracts for Arts Services through OCA, Elevate, and city commissions? The art centers, public murals, and local galleries must have pathways to funding and opportunities to showcase the incredible talent that comes through their doors. Maintaining a stable revenue stream is key to ensuring that Atlanta's arts community remains thriving. I believe it's possible for Atlanta to raise at least \$10M in arts funding in a way that's minimally impactful to our low-income households. But once that funding is generated, that also means working with stakeholders to develop weighted funding scales to ensure that small, diverse, equity-focused arts organizations have greater access to public funds than larger, more established institutions.

Beyond funding, we must be committed to protecting our arts infrastructure, particularly one that is reflective of Atlanta's diversity. I am committed to 1) preserving our existing artist communities by working to identify and expand affordable housing solutions, 2) working with stakeholders to develop weighted funding scales to ensure that small, diverse, equity-focused arts organizations have greater access to public funds than larger, more established institutions, and 3) opposing unnecessary regulations that curb artistic expression. Elected officials must support, rather than stifle, the inherent creativity within the arts community.

Together, these proposals would emphasize the importance of arts programming in our city. We're better off when the arts are supported and given a seat at the table.

How do you plan to work with fellow council members and the Mayor's Office to protect the ways artists work in this city? (Some initiatives on our radar: removing barriers to small business development for artists and entrepreneurs; protection of free speech; freelancer benefits similar to NYC)? I would encourage collaboration



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between the Office of Cultural Affairs and the Department of Parks and Recreation, and work to develop programming anchored by our recreation centers and nonprofit organizations to expose our youth to in multiple arts disciplines. City Council, the Mayor’s Office, and City Hall’s administrative staff could establish a committee to streamline interdepartmental cooperation.

I also support creating a Department of Cultural Affairs (separate from the Mayor's Office) which would oversee arts planning and programming across the City of Atlanta. Providing a degree of independence from the Mayor’s Office would ensure that the department’s priorities are being met year-over-year, regardless of which mayoral administration is in charge. Council members would work together to determine citywide priorities during the vetting and approval of a new commissioner.

How do you plan to include individual artists/freelancers in policies and programs to provide affordable housing and workspace? I support working with our private developers to organize artist-in-residence programs which would offer free or reduced-cost housing to artists to live and work in some of our most historic and culturally vibrant corridors. Developers are already required to set aside housing for moderate-income families in certain new construction projects --supporting and incentivizing programs like this would ensure that artists making far below those current thresholds still have an opportunity to positively impact our communities.

District 5

Name: Liliana Bakhtiari

Who do you consider Atlanta's Cultural leaders? I am a firm believer that our arts and culture in this city thrive with a web of all levels of artists and leadership. Our most effective arts leaders are often from the smallest organizations, and often steer the greater trajectory of our creative culture from the smallest moves. A few leaders who come to mind are: Monica Campana & Living Walls; Veronica Kessenich of the Atlanta Contemporary Arts Center; Courtney Hammond & Beth Malone of Dashboard; Outkast & The Dungeon Family; Flux Projects; Malika Whitley of ChopArt; Rev. Raphael Warnock; Dr. CT Vivian; Fahamu Pecu; Lauri Stallings; Doug Shipman of the Woodruff Arts Center

Considering such models as L.A. and Detroit (to name a few) that incorporate artists into planning and city government, what presence do you see for local artists in city government work beyond Contracts for Arts Services through OCA, Elevate, and city commissions? I think that we have artists in this city that deserve a seat at the table not just in specialized art events and commissions, but in our city planning and community outreach. Art is reflected in our city design, our tourism, in our architecture. It is the beating heart of our city. The creative minds of our city are a real asset. We’ve already seen the huge impact Atlanta’s arts and cultural scenes have had on our tourism dollars and cultural landscape, but there is room for so much more. Beyond expansion of “entertainment districts,” public arts commissions, and special events, we should invest more in those local artists who engage our communities, we should provide platforms for creative input when it comes to city design, and we should use our deep well of local creatives as a resource when finding creative solutions for vacant and public spaces. In Detroit especially, you can see the direct effects of giving artists vacant spaces, and what can be created with even limited resources. Imagine what we could do if the City and our artists worked together, and really invested in a common vision.

How do you plan to work with fellow council members and the Mayor's Office to protect the ways artists work in this city? (Some initiatives on our radar: removing barriers to small business development for artists and entrepreneurs; protection of free speech; freelancer benefits similar to NYC)? The first way we need to protect resident artists in Atlanta is to make sure they have living and work space. Artists living in commercial space are vulnerable to displacement, and that's bad for all of us. Expanding tenant protections for residents of commercial space will stabilize housing for many Atlanta artists without spending a dollar.

We also need to expand our Code Compliance Assistance. Because building and housing codes are, of course, a good thing, we want to make sure that any future planning code changes are done in an effort to increase livability



and diversity. After the Ghost Ship fire in San Francisco last year, we have seen more artists displaced out of fear by building owners which exacerbates our current problem.

We need to do a better job of creating and using a City Arts Strategy Fund. We talk about our love for the arts, but it's not reflected in a permanent way in our city's budget, making it victim to the whim of politicians. For every dollar invested in the arts, we see a \$9 return on investment. That beats our city sports, and yet our investments continue to go toward stadiums. It is time we recognize the arts for not just their aesthetic, but their economic value.

I am a big fan of NYC's freelance law, which places new protections in place enforcing payment to freelancers within 30 days of the contractually set date. In Atlanta, we will have to work with the State in order to really begin protecting our freelancers, including our artists, but we should definitely take a page out of New York's book when drafting that legislation.

We can also be more creative with permitted arts activities in neighborhood commercial districts. Too much time and political capital is spent by Atlanta artists getting specific arts activities permitted in neighborhood commercial districts, making it harder to create new events. While we love our old, established events, art activities in neighborhood storefronts or loft neighborhoods are almost always a universal positive, and we should allow more of them, which starts with streamlining the permitting process. Our public art ordinance goes hand in hand with this issue, as countless dollars and hours are put toward an extensive approval process for murals and other public art. Proposed ordinances do not solve this almost insurmountable approval process, and only further hinder freedom of expression in the public realm. This is another great example of when artists need to be at the table for policy decisions, and when working groups of local artists can work with the city to find solutions, rather than imposing policy from the top down.

Atlanta is also currently enamored with mixed-use districts, and I fully support them, but we could do a better job of protecting actual diverse use in them. Allowing and requiring can be very different things. Mixed use zones should be used to help preserve the Atlanta arts scene, not merely allow artists to compete for the commercial space. Furthermore, those mixed-use districts need to have a proposed arts budget, supplementing the city's budget via private/public partnership, in order to provide working artists a platform for creating and/or presenting work in the district, rather than giving them another set of studio spaces to choose to rent or offering them "exposure" in order to present their work for free. Atlanta's economic growth has been exceptional over the past few years, largely because our artists have made this city a cultural destination. When an employee helps your business, you give them a raise. We are overdue in giving our arts community a boost.

How do you plan to include individual artists/freelancers in policies and programs to provide affordable housing and workspace? As an artist myself, I'm looking forward to bringing my experience in Atlanta's vibrant and essential arts culture to our City Council. I believe I will be the first artist to serve as a member of Council. I'm also blessed to have been able to serve on numerous boards for our various arts organizations, and my partner, Kris, is a moving artist with gloATL.

In the past, our City Council has limited subsidizing affordable housing and workspaces for Atlanta artists to the outdated federal low-income housing tax credit that gives private developers an incentive to create low-income housing.

But right now, cities smaller than Atlanta, or with less well-known arts and culture scenes, are outstripping Atlanta's efforts on this important issue. New Orleans has the Bell Artspace Campus, a multi-million dollar space for musicians and artists to live and work in, funded by tax credits, philanthropic donations and committed city revenue.

In New York City, Democratic Mayor Bill de Blasio announced plans to provide approximately 1,500 fully subsidized affordable housing units for artists and musicians by 2025. While the number is small, it's at no cost to the artists - a first in the country, at least in modern history, and an example I would like to see Atlanta follow.



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I will also work to create a program where artists work with our Fulton/Atlanta Land Bank to revitalize distressed or vacant properties. During the recession, it was our artists and small businesses that kept Atlanta going. While we were second to Detroit in empty spaces, our creative culture thrived, and as always, our arts community rallied to make beauty out of nothing. It is hard to be an artist in a city like Atlanta, that takes so much and gives so little in return.

As our next City Council member, I want to change that. Our artists have invested so much to craft a unique and vibrant culture in this city, it is high time that we invested in them.

District 6

Name: Jennifer Ide

Who do you consider Atlanta's Cultural leaders? Atlanta has such a diverse cultural scene. In the music world, we have leaders like Ludacris, Killer Mike, Outkast, Ciara, and the Indigo Girls who have really embraced their hometown, to our amazing Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Kenny Leon has taken Atlanta's theater world to new levels in his many endeavors here. The many artists who participate in Art on the Beltline have done amazing work in bringing art outside the walls of museums and galleries.

Considering such models as L.A. and Detroit (to name a few) that incorporate artists into planning and city government, what presence do you see for local artists in city government work beyond Contracts for Arts Services through OCA, Elevate, and city commissions? We need to include artists on an affordable housing task force. We also need to increase opportunities for public art and exposure. We need to consider an artists district with zoning that allows for work/live artist space.

How do you plan to work with fellow council members and the Mayor's Office to protect the ways artists work in this city? (Some initiatives on our radar: removing barriers to small business development for artists and entrepreneurs; protection of free speech; freelancer benefits similar to NYC)? It is cumbersome to start a new small business in Atlanta and comply with occupation tax requirements. We should follow the example of Memphis where the city assists residents in starting new business, which can be done in a day. We need to re-examine the business license requirements for small businesses, including artists and freelancers.

How do you plan to include individual artists/freelancers in policies and programs to provide affordable housing and workspace? We need to have a more aggressive approach overall to addressing our affordable housing needs. We need to consider an arts district with zoning that would allow for work/live units and shared arts work space.

District 10

Name: Kenny Hill

Who do you consider Atlanta's Cultural leaders? Camille Love, Maya Angelou Former President Jimmy Carter and Dr Martin Luther King Jr are current and past cultural leaders.

Considering such models as L.A. and Detroit (to name a few) that incorporate artists into planning and city government, what presence do you see for local artists in city government work beyond Contracts for Arts Services through OCA, Elevate, and city commissions? I believe that local artists need to be involved in our schools, planning for parks and green spaces as well as in implementing future transportation projects at the Airport and the BeltLine development

How do you plan to work with fellow council members and the Mayor's Office to protect the ways artists work in this city? (Some initiatives on our radar: removing barriers to small business development for artists and entrepreneurs; protection of free speech; freelancer benefits similar to NYC)? I would like to see small business development increase including both artists and other entrepreneurs thru Invest Atlanta and other public/private



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partnerships. This is an important tool in creating jobs, engaging our young people and creating pathways to success for all citizens.

How do you plan to include individual artists/freelancers in policies and programs to provide affordable housing and workspace? Affordable housing is a major need across the entire city and solutions need to be inclusive of individuals who are entrepreneurs and artists. Creating more affordable workspaces is vital for these creative talents to develop and gain the exposure needed to become self-sustainable.

Name: Andrea Boone

Who do you consider Atlanta's Cultural leaders? Radcliffe Bailey, Pearl Cleage, Kenny Leon

Considering such models as L.A. and Detroit (to name a few) that incorporate artists into planning and city government, what presence do you see for local artists in city government work beyond Contracts for Arts Services through OCA, Elevate, and city commissions? I am absolutely committed to incorporating artists into the processes of city government. I believe the arts are central and vital to a city's health. Artistic expression in its many forms - from street art to dance to sculpture among so much more - needs to be nurtured, supported, and made part of how we plan for the city. I am open to and welcome a dialogue with the arts community to discuss how best to accomplish the community's goals.

How do you plan to work with fellow council members and the Mayor's Office to protect the ways artists work in this city? (Some initiatives on our radar: removing barriers to small business development for artists and entrepreneurs; protection of free speech; freelancer benefits similar to NYC)? The first step is to fully educate the City Council about the issues faced by artists and the solutions to those issues. Though there is general support for the arts on Council, understanding the specific barriers faced by the arts community needs to be increased. I will promote City Council work sessions out in the community and at City Hall to hear from artists and supporters to learn about the initiatives being used in other cities to help artists thrive. We need to hear from artists about what is and isn't working across the country and how Atlanta can incorporate best practices.

How do you plan to include individual artists/freelancers in policies and programs to provide affordable housing and workspace? As the City continues to gentrify, we lose not only long time residents but also artists who were courageous enough to create a space for expression where none had existed before. The Broad Street area comes to mind as a location that needs to be preserved for affordable housing/work spaces for artists. I will promote policies that support and protect the ability of artists to do this. Again, open discussion and sharing ideas between the community and City Council is a key to building knowledge and a strategy to move these policies forward. Artists must be at the table at every stage.

District 11

Name: Harold Hardnett

Who do you consider Atlanta's Cultural leaders? Xernona Clayton, Lolita Browning Jackson

Considering such models as L.A. and Detroit (to name a few) that incorporate artists into planning and city government, what presence do you see for local artists in city government work beyond Contracts for Arts Services through OCA, Elevate, and city commissions? Art is a tool of economic development and I believe that we must showcase local artists within communities they reside and work in. With the huge amount of greenspace and parks within our city, we can do more to create murals, place sculptures and look at having art on display in city owned businesses. We have several business associations where we can connect our artists so they can look at opportunities within local business districts for work and display opportunities along with performances. In my district, we have several new businesses that have hired artists to paint their murals inside them to reflect the community's culture. Art should reflect the neighborhoods and we must employ and utilize our local arts groups serve as the connecting bridge.



How do you plan to work with fellow council members and the Mayor's Office to protect the ways artists work in this city? (Some initiatives on our radar: removing barriers to small business development for artists and entrepreneurs; protection of free speech; freelancer benefits similar to NYC)? Artists should receive the same benefits that our home based entrepreneurs are eligible for. Many artists often hire others to work on their projects, collaborate and partner with each other. As we work to revitalize all parts of our city, I would lobby for 'residents first' consideration of art projects. I apply this to any business opportunity within our city, we must recognize our residents who have opted to live here instead of the suburbs and that should be rewarded. An artist should have at least one year of verifiable residency in the city to qualify. Furthermore, artists need a place to work in various locations across the city and with a high number of vacant properties in industrial and commercial nodes, we must work with organizations to provide incubator space, mentorship and business development opportunities for all forms of art.

How do you plan to include individual artists/freelancers in policies and programs to provide affordable housing and workspace? I would research city code to see if we have a category for an artist to qualify for a business license. Any firm or entity must be licensed within the city to be officially recognized. From there, we would look at our programs with Invest Atlanta to develop ways of how to reward the arts based businesses and organizations for being willing to invest in our distressed areas. The Atlanta Housing Authority would be brought in for us to look at ways of how to develop an artist housing program within our city. This would take extensive policy research that I would be willing to do as I view arts as an economic development tool.

Name: Edith Ladipo

Who do you consider Atlanta's Cultural leaders? Kenny Leon, Pearl Cleave, Comile Love, Rand Suffolk, Doug Shipman, Ann Cox Chambers, , .

Considering such models as L.A. and Detroit (to name a few) that incorporate artists into planning and city government, what presence do you see for local artists in city government work beyond Contracts for Arts Services through OCA, Elevate, and city commissions? Art in the Park, Art in Public Spaces, Annual Schedule of performing and creative art programs, throughout the city community. Ensure that various forms of art are incorporated in design and development of vacant buildings, artist for transforming blighted undeserved communities..

How do you plan to work with city council to protect the ways artists work in this city? (Some initiatives on our radar: removing barriers to small business development for artists and entrepreneurs; protection of free speech; freelancer benefits similar to NYC)? Promote Art Organizations in each council district through special funding and grant writing programs. Establish national and international Art events.

How do you plan to include individual artists/freelancers in policies and programs to provide affordable housing and workspace? I plan to promote the idea of work sessions to promote new ideas and new programs that engage the community in innovative ideas for programs in the arts and cultural.

Name: Debra F. Harris

Who do you consider Atlanta's Cultural leaders? Being an employee in the City of Atlanta, Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs from 1985-2011 in the Commissioner's Office Management Services Division I was the Departmental Contracting Officer and Legislative Liaison and the Bureau of Cultural Affairs was an office that I worked closely with on a daily bases, I know that Atlanta's Cultural Arts leaders are: Camille Russell-Love, Director of the City's now Office of Cultural Affairs, David Vogt, Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport- Airport Arts Program Manager, Karen Low-Chastain Arts Center, Roberr Witherspoon-City's Public Arts Project Manager/Collection Manager, Dorian McDuffie-City's Public Arts Manager, Cheryl A. Odeleye-Fulton County, Southwest Arts Center, Program Director and Kenny Leon-True Colors Theater Company.



Considering such models as L.A. and Detroit (to name a few) that incorporate artists into planning and city government, what presence do you see for local artists in city government work beyond Contracts for Arts Services through OCA, Elevate, and city commissions? Expanding the City of Atlanta's Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs so as to hire more local artists as City employees. Work with the administration in developing new procurement procedures for contract/vendor selection process. Work to put new Request for Proposal processes in place. Work with the Department of Planning to have an art development component incorporated in the City's permit application process for new development applications for Multi Family Buildings or any new development.

How do you plan to work with fellow council members and the Mayor's Office to protect the ways artists work in this city? (Some initiatives on our radar: removing barriers to small business development for artists and entrepreneurs; protection of free speech; freelancer benefits similar to NYC)? Because the Arts revitalize and grow cities to vibrant communities, and our City of Atlanta Arts sector impacts our city's economy larger than other industries like tourism and transportation, I would continue to work with our City Council to recognize the economic value impact of our Arts community and would draft legislative papers to continue that support. I would work to remove barriers for small, minority and female owned business enterprises for artists and entrepreneurs. Will work to protect freedom of speech through artworks that do not offend any groups.

How do you plan to include individual artists/freelancers in policies and programs to provide affordable housing and workspace? By working with the Office of Cultural Affairs and the Department of Planning to include artists/freelancers in the policies and programs development stages when developers come to the City and the various NPU meetings with ideas to develop Affordable Housing units. Solicit the artists/freelancers ideas upfront to work with developers through these city agencies.

District 12

Name: Michael Jackson

Who do you consider Atlanta's Cultural leaders? Creflo Dollar, T.I, Killer Mike, Goodgame Auntie

Considering such models as L.A. and Detroit (to name a few) that incorporate artists into planning and city government, what presence do you see for local artists in city government work beyond Contracts for Arts Services through OCA, Elevate, and city commissions? I feel that artist have more power than they think and should be apart of city government work beyond Contracts for Arts Services

How do you plan to work with fellow council members and the Mayor's Office to protect the ways artists work in this city? (Some initiatives on our radar: removing barriers to small business development for artists and entrepreneurs; protection of free speech; freelancer benefits similar to NYC)? I plan on making sure everyone feel as though they are important and will have free speech to express themselves and play a part in making Atlanta even more beautiful.

How do you plan to include individual artists/freelancers in policies and programs to provide affordable housing and workspace? I was once in the music industry and have a connection with artists and will use that as a platform to make sure artist are involved in policies and programs to provide affordable housing and workspace.

Post 1 At-Large

Name: Michael Julian Bond

Who do you consider Atlanta's Cultural leaders? Kenny Leon, Anthony Rodriguez, Aisha Moody-Atlanta Music Project, Sue Ross, President Jimmy Carter, Paper Frank, Sheffield Hale, Juan R. Ramirez, Robert Spano, T. Renee Crutcher, Camille Love

Considering such models as L.A. and Detroit (to name a few) that incorporate artists into planning and city government, what presence do you see for local artists in city government work beyond Contracts for Arts Services through OCA, Elevate, and city commissions? As an artist, I recognize the benefits of including artists on the front end of city planning to provide distinctive character and unique place-making in local areas. I



wholeheartedly support the arts community including independent artists partnering as expert-advisors and technicians with local government to enhance and revitalize our city's in-town neighborhoods.

How do you plan to work with fellow council members and the Mayor's Office to protect the ways artists work in this city? (Some initiatives on our radar: removing barriers to small business development for artists and entrepreneurs; protection of free speech; freelancer benefits similar to NYC)? While I am not entirely familiar with the New York city model, I support the City and County jointly exploring initiatives under an Arts & Entertainment Commission to build on the State tax credits and burgeoning film and music interests in our region. Such an effort will allow the two governments to develop a creative economy engine for the region that will capture international investments. In order to have an equitable and diverse system, we would absolutely eliminate barriers facing independent/freelancing artists and small businesses in the arts.

How do you plan to include individual artists/freelancers in policies and programs to provide affordable housing and workspace? Atlanta has already begun to develop business incubators for the technology sector. I would support an arts and culture housing/workspace incubator to further develop our independent arts community and cultural entrepreneurs.

Post 3 At-Large

Name: Andre Dickens

Who do you consider Atlanta's Cultural leaders? Dungeon Family, Fahamu, Fabian, Camille Love, Jason Orr, Jason Carter, Kebbi Williams, WonderRoot, and Imara Canady

Considering such models as L.A. and Detroit (to name a few) that incorporate artists into planning and city government, what presence do you see for local artists in city government work beyond Contracts for Arts Services through OCA, Elevate, and city commissions? Several rotating places for curated exhibitions. Commissions are actually great if they maintain their independence from the administration and council. Speak the truth in and out of the meeting. But also speak from an asset perspective (talking about what we do have to build upon) versus a deficit perspective (talking about what we don't have).

How do you plan to work with fellow council members and the Mayor's Office to protect the ways artists work in this city? (Some initiatives on our radar: removing barriers to small business development for artists and entrepreneurs; protection of free speech; freelancer benefits similar to NYC)? I'm not an artist but I have a huge appreciation for artists. The outputs of local creatives are throughout my home, in my office, and in my eardrum daily by choice. I would not want to limit that output in any way but rather expand upon it. Atlanta exports so much of our culture without fully recognizing it ourselves nor getting adequate credit tangibly or intangibly for it. Having said all of that, I plan to continue to listen closely to folks like Kebbi Williams, WonderRoot, Fabian, and others. Their ideas will be far better than mine.

How do you plan to include individual artists/freelancers in policies and programs to provide affordable housing and workspace? This has been my primary work for the past 4 years on council. I have helped to bring about affordable housing for artists through the Adair School property deeds and planning with the owners. I've stood up against all that oppose those types of bold moves. I also support an artist residency program.



City Council President

Name: Alex Wan

Who do you consider Atlanta's Cultural leaders? In terms of being strong advocates and examples for the Atlanta community, I see people like Kenny Leon, Virginia Hepner (now Doug Shipman) and groups like WonderRoot and ArtsATL as leading the effort to preserve and advance arts efforts in Atlanta.

Considering such models as L.A. and Detroit (to name a few) that incorporate artists into planning and city government, what presence do you see for local artists in city government work beyond Contracts for Arts Services through OCA, Elevate, and city commissions? It is critical that City Council not operate in a vacuum when deliberating initiatives and legislation that could benefit or negatively impact the arts community. Admittedly, the city's arts budget is not as large as Fulton County's, we need to actively seek ways to engage the arts community into our processes, not only to make sure we continue advancing arts initiatives, but that we also don't enact anything that would have unintended consequences for the arts. I would absolutely lead City Council in working with the next administration to explore creating a position in the planning department to incorporate public art initiatives guided by local artists into our efforts. We have great examples of quasi-government groups like the Little Five Points Community Improvement District (CID) and Atlanta BeltLine that are actively partnering with arts efforts in their programming, and this is a model we can and should expand more broadly.

How do you plan to work with fellow council members and the Mayor's Office to protect the ways artists work in this city? (Some initiatives on our radar: removing barriers to small business development for artists and entrepreneurs; protection of free speech; freelancer benefits similar to NYC)? As City Council President, I will ensure that finding ways to support the arts community - and perhaps more importantly, making sure we do not enact laws or regulations that would negatively impact the arts community - is deliberately woven into our legislative process. We should absolutely consider artists and businesses in the creative space to be beneficiaries of the city's small business initiatives, including financial and technical support, as well as assistance with government permitting/licensing processes. Unlike one of my opponents, I would never introduce zoning regulations (example: recording studios legislation) to add additional requirements for creative enterprises in our communities as a knee jerk response to unrelated concerns, nor would I try and redirect potential arts funding mechanisms (example: Mayor's effort to secure 1/10 penny sales tax dedicated to arts) to other functions. I will also invite the arts community and other stakeholders in to explore additional partnerships with other nonprofits, businesses and municipalities to support the arts in Atlanta and Georgia. By instilling a value for the arts in our city, I will make sure City Council actively prioritizes this wonderful asset for Atlanta.

How do you plan to include individual artists/freelancers in policies and programs to provide affordable housing and workspace? Affordability continues to grow in importance in the city's dialog about its future, both in terms of housing inventory and creative spaces. I fully supported the city's recent partnership with WonderRoot to develop affordable units and space for the arts community and hope we continue to seek similar opportunities going forward. It is critical to include the members of the community that would benefit most from these kinds of initiatives so that we make sure what we move forward brings product that is truly useful to the industry. Therefore, I will support efforts like the proposed legislation City Council is deliberating to create an arts council to advise us on such matters. And much like I have advocated for specific inclusion of certain groups for consideration of funding for the Homeless Opportunity Bond, I will do so for the arts community in the implementation of the city's Housing Opportunity Bond for affordable housing/space.

Name: Felicia Moore

Who do you consider Atlanta's Cultural leaders? Rev. Raphael Warnock, Tyler Perry, Kenny Blank, Monica Campana



Considering such models as L.A. and Detroit (to name a few) that incorporate artists into planning and city government, what presence do you see for local artists in city government work beyond Contracts for Arts Services through OCA, Elevate, and city commissions? I believe artists in Atlanta deserve a seat at the table not just for specialized art events and commissions, but in all levels of our city planning and community outreach. Art is essential to Atlanta’s international relationship and has always been reflected in our city design, our tourism, and our architecture.

Many describe it as the soul of our city, And I agree with them. Beyond expanding our “entertainment districts,” public arts commissions, and special events, we should invest more in those local artists who engage our communities, we should provide platforms for creative input when it comes to city design, and we should use our deep well of local creatives as a resource when finding creative solutions for vacant and public spaces. Look at Detroit, where you can see the direct effects of giving artists vacant spaces, and what can be created with even limited resources. Atlanta can be even greater if the City and our artists worked together, and really invested in a common vision.

How do you plan to work with fellow council members and the Mayor's Office to protect the ways artists work in this city? (Some initiatives on our radar: removing barriers to small business development for artists and entrepreneurs; protection of free speech; freelancer benefits similar to NYC). The same way I’ve been doing it the last 19 years - by standing up for artists, working with Living Walls and Elevate and our neighborhood groups, and making sure that Atlanta continues to build on its growing reputation for vital, vibrant street art.

I don’t know anyone who doesn’t believe that the arts are an absolutely essential aspect a first-class city, and that needs to include ALL artists, from music to the visual arts, from dance to theater, from the underground to the establishment, and across racial and socioeconomic lines. I’m proud of my record of fighting to make sure City Hall has engaged the arts community more directly the last few years, and we’ve done a better job, to be sure, but as our next City Council President I will make sure we achieve far more consistent, deep interaction between the City and the arts community, particularly at a grassroots level. My goal is to ensure a vibrant arts scene that explicitly seeks to build and sustain community.

As a councilmember, I will oppose any such efforts to overregulate the arts, while maintaining neighborhood safety which remains my ongoing top priority, and I will continue to support all efforts to invest in artists that are contributing to the culture of our City. I am a strong supporter of any policies that help artists live and work in the City and in emerging or recovering neighborhoods, like affordable housing and direct investment in small, community owned businesses, with specific funding set aside for local arts.

Our city has learned the hard way that we can’t do this kind of work without real, committed engagement within the diverse and widespread arts community. That’s why I fully support an Arts Advisory Committee.

How do you plan to include individual artists/freelancers in policies and programs to provide affordable housing and workspace? As our next City Council President, I will continue to support a dedicated funding stream for the arts. I’m proud of my record of making sure our City supports arts organizations’ revenue streams by investing significantly in Atlanta’s transportation and safety, things that directly increase attendance and purchases, particularly in areas within emerging arts scenes, to ensure broad audiences and exposure.

As our next City Council President I will continue to promote the arts - with a special emphasis on local grassroots artists working on building a real community, such as Living Walls.

Additionally, I will never allow the city to dictate what constitutes art or artistic expression. I will always fight against efforts like the recent “public art” legislation to impose blanket controls on art.