

September 9, 2014



Vaughan I. Morrisette
Chairman

Albert B. Head
Executive Director

Dear Candidate:

As the official arts agency of the State of Alabama, the Alabama State Council on the Arts is frequently asked about positions of elected officials and candidates on arts issues. We work with individuals and organizations that are involved in the arts in practically every community in the state. In order to respond to many requests, the Council, in cooperation with The Alabama Writers' Forum, the Alabama Alliance for Arts Education, Design Alabama, the Alabama Dance Council, the Alabama Folklife Association, and the Alabama Crafts Council, submits to you a few questions relative to the arts. We want to accurately present your positions based on the answers you provide regarding state support. We will circulate your responses to art organizations, as well as citizen groups and editorial boards. On the questionnaire, please note any specific group or person to whom you want us to share your responses.

201 Monroe Street
Suite 110
Montgomery, Alabama
36130-1800
334•242•4076
FAX: 334•240•3269
staff@arts.alabama.gov
www.arts.state.al.us

The Council appreciates your attention to these few questions. You will be directly enhancing our effort to educate voters trying to make informed decisions during the upcoming election. In order for us to timely distribute the information, we need your response by September 26th. Submission after that date will be posted as possible in periodic cycles before November 4th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Vaughan I. Morrisette'.

Vaughan I. Morrisette
Chair, Alabama State Council on the Arts

VIM/jb

Enclosures



Alabama State Council on the Arts CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

Response from: _____

Office Sought: _____

Authorizing Signature or Initials _____

Organizations such as the National Governor's Association, the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Southern Growth Policies Board, all concerned with public policy, have issues position papers, publications or research documents focusing on the arts. Topics such as arts education, economic impact of the arts, community development through the arts and cultural tourism have all been profiled. Public arts policy is also an issue with many statewide service organizations in Alabama. With that in mind the following questionnaire is being presented to you for a response and to be considered by art organizations and statewide service groups such as: The Alabama Writers' Forum, the Alabama Alliance for Arts Education, DesignAlabama, the Alabama Dance Council, the Alabama Folklife Association, the Alabama Museums Association, the Alabama Crafts Council and the Alabama Conference of Theatre. Your response by September 26, 2014 will be greatly appreciated.

Are you generally in favor of state appropriations for grants to non-profit arts groups and schools for art programs. YES No

Comments:

Companies considering investments in Alabama have cited quality of life issues as important criteria in selecting business locations. Do you believe the arts and cultural resources should be actively utilized in state economic development strategies? YES No

Comments:

The visual, performing and literary arts in Alabama attract thousands of people to the state resulting in significant economic impact as a result of exhibitions, performances, major festivals and significant arts venues. Do you support expanding cultural tourism efforts in Alabama? YES No

Comments:

Much of Alabama's heritage and culture is reflected through its rich folklife and unique traditional artists. Do you favor state efforts to preserve, promote and present Alabama's folklife and traditional arts? YES No

Comments:

Numerous studies acknowledge exposure to the arts plays a significant role in higher order thinking reducing school drop-out rates, creative problem solving and contributes to achievement in other subjects such as math and science. Do you support a strong arts presence in the schools and including the arts as part of the basic curriculum? YES No

Comments:

The arts and a broad range of creative industries can play a vital role in downtown revitalization and community development in general. Do you endorse cultural and entertainment districts as incentives for economic development? YES No

Comments:

Do you attend community arts events or otherwise participate in the arts? If so, what is your primary area of interest? YES No

Comments:

Please feel free to attach general comments, suggestions or other specific positions regarding the arts. Also, indicate any particular organizations you would like us to send your positions on the arts to.

**Please submit your responses by:
Mail - ASCA, 201 Monroe Street, Suite 110, Montgomery, AL 36104
Fax (334) 240-3269 or Email Artist@arts.alabama.gov by September 26, 2014.**