



Dear Candidates:

ArtsVote Niagara is concerned with culture in our community. Culture encompasses arts and heritage and all the specific and unique ways in which people communicate, interact and express themselves. Arts and heritage are expressions of our current and past culture. Culture is also a field of endeavour and a business sector with commercial and not-for-profit interests.

Thank you for participating in the ArtsVote Niagara 2011 survey. We are very interested in your views relating to culture and government. Your survey responses will be graded, made public, and widely distributed throughout Niagara prior to the upcoming election in the local media, newspapers and online.

The survey should take about 10-15 minutes. It is comprised primarily of multiple choice questions – the answers provided may not perfectly reflect your view or sensibility but choose the answer that most closely represents your view. You may add comments at the end of the survey.

There are 3 sections to this survey:

Section 1

Questionnaire (14 questions)

Section 2

Candidate's Comments

Section 3

Candidate Information

The results will be tabulated and each candidate will be assigned a grade based on their survey answers. A separate evaluation will be undertaken of party platforms and cultural policies. These grades will be gathered into a report card that will be widely distributed throughout the Niagara cultural sector and the public at large.

ArtsVote Niagara is a cross-disciplinary, non-partisan committee of volunteers who seek the views and examine the voting records of candidates on arts-related issues. **ArtsVote Niagara** provides this objective information to communities affected by the arts and cultural sectors so voters can make informed decisions.

www.artsvoteniagara.ca



Section 1 – Multiple Choice

1. Over the last four years, what are the ways in which you have participated in locally based arts, heritage and cultural activities or organizations in the Niagara Region?

(Check any that apply, multiple answers acceptable)

	Never	Once	2-3 times	4+ times
Donations to arts, cultural or heritage organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Volunteer work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attendance at events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Board service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collector of local art	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Membership in arts, cultural or heritage organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide us with a few examples of how you've participated:

2. In the last year, what are the ways in which you have experienced locally based arts, cultural and heritage activities in the Niagara Region?

(Check any that apply, multiple answers acceptable)

	Never	Once	2-3 times	4+ times
Art Galleries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dinner Theatre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Festivals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Films	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historical Museums	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic Sites	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Libraries	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Music Recitals or Concerts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Theatre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please provide us with a few examples of what you've experienced:



3. Culture and cultural programs have a role to play in which of the following provincial concerns?
 (Check any that apply, multiple answers acceptable)

The health of Ontarians	<input type="checkbox"/>
The economic development of Ontario	<input type="checkbox"/>
The education of Ontarians	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attracting tourists to Ontario	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preserving the Heritage of Ontario	<input type="checkbox"/>
None of the above <i>(space for comments is available at the end of the survey)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. While some of these statements may be true or false to some degree, please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Agree
The arts are important for all the unique ways they inspire ideas, creativity and innovation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts are important for fostering relationships between individuals and cultures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural infrastructure provides community gathering places that reinforce the social fabric of our community and our sense of belonging.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Heritage institutions are important to forging our sense of individual, community, and national identity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our cultural infrastructure should not be a funding priority during troubled economic times.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural programming promotes connections between individuals and a deeper understanding across diverse communities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts are primarily a recreational pursuit that should be sustainable without public support.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The cultural sector makes significant contributions to sustainable communities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts attract people whose values do not represent the views of mainstream Ontarians.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Participation in the arts can reduce prejudice and increase social cohesion.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts tend to be elitist and don't engage a lot of ordinary people.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
An education in the arts enhances aptitudes for lifelong learning, communication and versatility in the workplace.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Cultural institutions and activities are not as important as sports facilities and activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts are a labour intensive, non-polluting, renewable source of economic development.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts hold limited interest for me, but I remain open-minded.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts are important for their role in the economic revitalization of downtowns.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts are a type of recreational activity and should receive no more than a basic level of public subsidy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural programs promote an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of shared citizenship and opportunities to participate in Canada's civic life.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. At the provincial level, public funding of the arts has been justified by a variety of rationales over the years. Which are the arguments you are most comfortable making in support of provincial investment in the arts?
(Check any that apply, multiple answers acceptable)

The arts and heritage, and especially cultural attractions, have significant economic impact.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts are agents of social change and important partners in social problem solving.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts for arts' sake – they are an expression of ourselves and our national culture.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts are in the public interest because they improve the quality of community life.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The arts stimulate innovation by nurturing the knowledge-based economy.	<input type="checkbox"/>
None of the above (<i>space for comments is available at the end of the survey</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>

6. In economically troubled times, which of the following statements best reflects your opinion?
(Check the one statement that best reflects your opinion)

It is unlikely that the majority of my constituents would accept increased cultural spending – a modest reduction across all cultural programs would be appropriate.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts, heritage and cultural programs, like all government programs, should be reviewed periodically for opportunities to reduce or increase government spending.	<input type="checkbox"/>
All cultural spending should be cut.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural spending is modest in the scheme of things and, I would argue, should not be cut.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural spending should only be made in programs that have an economic impact.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Investment in culture should be increased immediately as a means of preserving cultural identity while driving innovation and stimulating economic recovery.	<input type="checkbox"/>



7. Through their granting programs, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the Ontario Arts Council provide critical support for artists and arts organizations. What do you see as the role of these arms-length provincial funders?

(Check any that apply, multiple answers acceptable)

To invest in arts organizations that will create direct economic dividends for Ontarians	<input type="checkbox"/>
To act as filters to determine which individual artists and cultural organizations should receive grants	<input type="checkbox"/>
To be instigators of community engagement and volunteerism integral to the social fabric of Ontario communities	<input type="checkbox"/>
To stimulate the estimated \$10 billion in consumer spending on cultural goods and services in Ontario every year	<input type="checkbox"/>
To cultivate and nurture the talents and careers of Ontario artists	<input type="checkbox"/>
None of the above (<i>space for comments is available at the end of the survey</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. The total amount awarded to the arts of the province by the Ontario Arts Council is \$51.8 million or \$3.96 a year for each Ontarian. This is among the lowest per capita investment in the arts of all the provinces. Do you agree with sustaining, or if possible, increasing the amount of funding per Ontarian that the province invests in the arts?

- Yes
No

9. The arts and culture sector contributed \$19.7 billion to Ontario's GDP in 2005. Over 250,000 Ontarians were directly employed in the cultural sector in 2007. Yet despite being highly skilled and educated, artists earn about half of the average of other workers with similar qualifications and are five times more likely to be self-employed. Which of the following matters of federal jurisdiction would you act as an advocate for?

(Check any that apply, multiple answers acceptable)

Allow artists that have been recognized by their peers to deduct their legitimate business expenses against earnings regardless of what income threshold they reach	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allow artists whose income often fluctuates greatly from year to year to average their income and expenditures over several tax years	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide self-employed artists broader access to public retraining programs, particularly those that are funded through the Employment Insurance program	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research models from other countries that extend health, pension and other social benefits to artists	<input type="checkbox"/>
None of the above (<i>space for comments is available at the end of the survey</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. By any measure, Ontarians are arts supporters. They consistently rank among the nation's top spenders on cultural goods and services, and a full 95 per cent of them believe that the arts enrich the quality of their lives. In spite of this support Ontario lags behind other provinces in developing a sustainable arts and culture policy framework. The province of Saskatchewan recently implemented "Pride of Saskatchewan," a cultural policy that "makes culture an important part of the government's priority of improving quality of life, building pride and sustaining economic growth."



Do you support the development of a comparable cultural policy for Ontario?

Yes

No

If yes, which of the following should be among the priorities that guide this policy?

(Check any that apply, multiple answers acceptable)

- Acknowledging the importance of culture as defining the identity and diversity of Ontario
- Recognizing that culture is an important contributor to our enviable quality of life and economic growth
- Promoting artistic excellence and creative expression while increasing public access to cultural experiences
- Building community and organizational capacity, and strengthening the commercial viability of the cultural sector
- Providing a secure, predictable and stable funding environment for non-profit arts organizations
- Ensuring that artists are capable of earning a livelihood as professionals in their field
- Recognizing the importance of honouring First Nations perspectives and respecting the diversity of others
- None of the above (*space for comments is available at the end of the survey*)

11. Experiencing the arts during gallery and theatre excursions and through in-school visits by professional artists and performers enriches learning for Ontario students. What is your opinion of the value of these experiences with professional and high calibre artists and art institutions?

(Check the one statement that best reflects your opinion)

- Professional art has its place in education, but we cannot take valuable teaching time during school hours to experience it
- 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 resources should be found to provide access for all children
- Exposure to professional arts and artists is a recreational diversion and has no place in the education system

12. Is it more important for students to practice art or experience professional art?

(Check the one statement that best reflects your opinion)

- 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.
- It is more important for children to practice art than experience professional art. Art can be a good teaching tool if used in conjunction with other subjects.
- Experiencing high quality professional art and practicing art are both very important. They have equal but different benefits for the child, and both should be part of the education system.



It is more important for children to experience high quality art than to practice it. Attending professional art is more important than doing art at school.

13. In recent years, as the Arts Health Network Canada and other organizations have highlighted, a growing body of international research has established vital links between the arts and health. Which of the following do you consider to be the ways in which arts and culture contribute to individual and community health?
(Check any that apply, multiple answers acceptable)

Arts-based programs, activities and therapies carry benefits for both the medical treatment of individual patients and economic sustainability of the health care system.

Participation in the arts strengthens the immune system, protects against depression, and correlates with longer lifespan and positive perceptions of one's own health.

Engaging in arts programs enables seniors to live independently longer, and reduces use of doctors, medications and medical facilities while enhancing quality of life.

Arts empower youth, especially youth-at-risk, to succeed in school and develop skills and relationships that contribute to health and success later in life.

Arts activities provide avenues for healing for those who have suffered from personal trauma, and also provide vehicles for exploring solutions to social problems such as addiction, bullying, domestic violence, etc.

14. In order to enhance and increase the volume of film and television production in the province, which of the following measures do you support?
(Check any that apply, multiple answers acceptable)

Make provincial tax credits for filmmakers more accessible

Ensure on-going stable support for film festivals in the province

Provide funding for media artists through organizations such as the Ontario Arts Council

Increase direct funding opportunities for the production of new film and television

None of the above (*space for comments is available at the end of the survey*)



Section 3 – Candidate Information

Name: _____

Riding: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Website: www. _____

1. Is this questionnaire being completed by the candidate? Yes / No
a) If not, please state the name, position and telephone number of the person who is filling out this questionnaire.

Name: _____

Relationship to Candidate: _____

Telephone Number: _____

2. Do you wish your completed survey to be made available publicly? Yes / No
3. Will you forward your resume or biography to candidates@artsvoteniagara.com? Yes / No

Affirmation: I have read and understand the previous questions and declare that the responses to this questionnaire are true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Completed questionnaires should be returned to the following address
no later than 4 p.m. on Monday 19 September 2011

ArtsVote c/o Niagara Artists Centre
354 St. Paul Street
St. Catharines ON L2R 3N2

THANK YOU!