



## CREATE THE VOTE NEW HAVEN

July 15, 2019

Dear Candidate NAME,

A healthy creative sector is vital for the success of our community. There are many ways that arts and culture drives our economy, educates our students, and enhances our quality of life. It is clear that 'arts matter' for New Haven.

Create the Vote New Haven is a nonpartisan campaign to raise awareness and support for arts, culture, + creativity among voters and mayoral candidates. The project is led by a Steering Committee of New Haven residents with support from the Arts Council of Greater New Haven.

As part of our campaign, we are asking all mayoral candidates to respond to the attached questionnaire. We invite you to take the time to reflect and enter into conversation with the community around these issues. We will post and promote your responses on our website ([newhavenarts.org/vote](http://newhavenarts.org/vote)) and on social media throughout the campaign.

**Please submit your responses no later than July 31.** Send your responses to Daniel Fitzmaurice, the Arts Council of Greater New Haven's Executive Director, at [Daniel@NewHavenArts.org](mailto:Daniel@NewHavenArts.org).

The Steering Committee would also like to schedule a meeting with you to learn about your vision for New Haven, ask us questions about the creative sector, and exchange perspectives about arts and culture in our community. Please contact [Daniel@NewHavenArts.org](mailto:Daniel@NewHavenArts.org) / (203) 710 2966 to schedule this private meeting.

All the best with your campaign and we look forward to meeting with you soon.

Sincerely,

*Create the Vote New Haven Steering Committee*

Raven Blake, Alexander Bogle, Heather Burtman, Ron Coleman, Patrick Dunn, Gillian Eversman, Ariel Herbert, Paul Bryant Hudson, Helen Kauder, Martha Lewis, Elizabeth Nearing, Babz Rawls-Ivy, Caroline Smith

# CREATE THE VOTE NEW HAVEN

## Candidate Questionnaire

Please submit your responses by July 31 to [Daniel@NewHavenArts.org](mailto:Daniel@NewHavenArts.org)

### 1. *Your Personal Connection*

What personal experience with arts, culture, or creativity has had an impact on your life and your view of New Haven?

### 2. *Social Justice + the Arts*

New Haven was recently celebrated as the most demographically similar to the United States overall, yet longstanding racial and economic divides limit opportunities for affordable housing, high-quality education, and reliable employment. How will you utilize artists and creative organizations to help create change for these and other social justice issues?

### 3. *Creativity + Youth Development*

Art instruction increases achievement across all academic disciplines and develops the whole child. How will you champion arts education with our youth during and after school?

### 4. *Economic Growth + the Creative Sector*

The New Haven region's nonprofit arts and cultural organizations boasts 5,700 full-time jobs and produces \$135 million in direct economic activity annually. How will you capitalize on the strength of the creative sector in your economic development planning?

### 5. *Funding the Arts*

The city recently allocated \$100,000 to arts projects through the Mayor's Neighborhood Cultural Vitality Grant Program. Will you continue to fund this and other initiatives of the Arts, Culture, and Tourism Division?

### 6. *Promoting CT's Creative Capital*

While New Haven is undoubtedly the creative capital of Connecticut, the city itself has yet to fully leverage the strength of our creative community as a means for branding and marketing. How would you utilize the arts to promote our city as a destination to live, work, play, and visit?

### 7. *Your Creative Priorities*

The start of a mayor's tenure will set your administration's tone and priorities. When elected, what actions will you take in your first 100 days to support the creative community?