

Candidate	Addressing Citywide Issues
Felix Arroyo	<p>Arts, culture, and tourism contribute to the livelihood of our city. Boston is home to many cultural institutions that make Boston not only a great place to live, but also a great place to visit. We must support the arts, performances, theatre, music, dance, museums, local artists, cultural exhibits, and creative opportunities that enhance our neighborhoods and contribute to our quality of life.</p> <p>Boston is a prosperous city and I believe all of our neighborhoods should share in that prosperity. Developing cultural districts in our city attracts artists, encourages business development, and establishes destinations of cultural experiences for Boston families and visitors. By supporting living and working space for artists in Boston to thrive and practice their craft, we also promote economic development.</p> <p>Integrating the arts, culture and creative community in how we invest in all of our communities will contribute to making all of our neighborhoods economically sustainable.</p>
John Barros	
Dan Conley	<p>Boston's arts, cultural and creative community have been adding exponentially to Boston's economy and strengthening the social fabric of the city and individual neighborhoods for decades. These contributions have largely been from the ground up or driven by private and non-profit sectors, with the city itself playing an important but more limited role, particularly when compared with other cities. The return on investments in the arts, however, is nothing short of spectacular. It's estimated that for every one public dollar invested in the arts, there is a \$7 private sector investment return.</p> <p>But the arts also make Boston a much more livable and workable city. Artists have traditionally been in the vanguard transforming and stabilizing marginal neighborhoods, including dramatic reductions in crime and blight. They provide a multitude of jobs, often function as small businesses and create spin-off economic activities and benefits too numerous to list, but certainly including retail, galleries, festivals, and live performance spaces. Their individual and collective contributions add to Boston's allure as a tourist destination, with the communities themselves often becoming major draws.</p> <p>Finally, the arts have long provided outlets for individuals looking to express their vision, their hopes, their dreams, their frustrations, and their politics. The arts are a powerful tool for social change on a large scale and on an individual scale as they are an accessible career and lifestyle path for people from any background and walk of life.</p> <p>For all of these reasons, as mayor, I am committed to linking local artists into Boston's public and private development, (housing, business, and entrepreneurial opportunities) to benefit the artist, the community, and to spur added economic spinoffs. I'll support artist housing and make that space permanent through deed restrictions and other legal mechanisms. This housing will be located strategically, in areas that would be less suitable for traditional family housing. I'll seek to find and create live and work space for artists (or work only space) that is affordable and benefits city residents. In addition, I will look to the artist community for new ideas and advice on maintaining and increasing Boston's allure for tourism and hospitality.</p>
John Connolly	<p>As mayor, I will make support for the arts and culture a priority. The arts enrich our lives, spark our curiosity, bring us together, and make our city a more interesting, welcoming, and vibrant place to live, work and visit. By doing all of that, the arts also strengthen our economy. One of our greatest economic challenges is keeping skilled and talented workers here in the Boston area, and those</p>

	<p>workers want a city with a thriving artistic and cultural life. If we attract and retain skilled and talented workers, then we'll also attract the companies that want to hire them. I will also work to ensure that all Bostonians benefit from the city's arts and cultural resources, not just downtown but in every neighborhood. I supported the effort by a group of community members to use Bartlett Yard in Roxbury as a community arts space, and I will work to establish a culture at City Hall that works collaboratively to green light more projects like this.</p> <p>We are fortunate to have incredible arts organizations for young people, like Artists for Humanity, which provides teens with jobs making and selling art; and Zumix, which builds community by teaching young people to play instruments, write songs, and record music, among other things. These programs are helping young people to build self-esteem, giving them the confidence to imagine a positive future for themselves. As mayor, I will do everything I can to support arts organizations working with young people in our neighborhoods, including exploring options to increase direct funding for them.</p>
Rob Consalvo	<p>I recently visited Artists for Humanity in South Boston. I was impressed by their approach. Each school year they offer paid apprenticeships to urban teens. The neighborhood kids advance through a series of orientations and then are free to create, market and sell their work. The energy in the building is impressive and the skills they build are real. When I visited I could see the kids working individually and in teams in various mediums: painting, screen printing, digital media, web design, etc. The leadership of the organization really cares and told stories of kids who were not doing well in school but when they came to Artists for Humanity discovered they had a talent not previously recognized. This talent turned into a skill and the skill turned into a productive self- image.</p> <p>Another group is Spontaneous Celebrations in Jamaica Plain who engage youth and adults in creative community building through its programs and festivals. They have been doing this for many years. In both cases, these organizations drive economic development. Spontaneous Celebrations provides artists an outlet to sell their work at their festivals and events and Artists for Humanity helps build job skills and then provides opportunities for youth to negotiate a deal in the market and sell their work.</p> <p>These grassroots models are instructive and I think there is certainly room for more. If they strike a resonant chord in one neighborhood of Boston there is a good chance it will resonate in another neighborhood. One way to encourage good ideas and share program successes is to bring people together to learn from each other. A Boston cultural economic development summit could be a good start. This would include the diverse set of cultural institutions in Boston. Such a summit could explore the potential already here and how we can further economic benefit and social connection.</p>
Charlotte Golar Richie	
Mike Ross	<p>The arts and the creative community of Boston offer countless opportunities to inspire and engage our residents in addressing the range of economic and social challenges facing our city. The creative industry offers pathways for economic prosperity for diverse residents of Boston, as well as provides outlets for creative solutions to issues like public safety and education. As Mayor, I will implement a strong Arts and Cultural Agenda that supports the arts and helps creative economy thrive and empowers the creative community to have a greater role in addressing pressing issues we face as a city.</p> <p>A smart, focused plan for the creative community will leverage Boston's rich ecosystem of arts groups, non-profits, institutions, and schools to bring expanded programming into Boston Public</p>

	<p>Schools, neighborhoods, and parks to provide positive outlets and pathways for our young people, both in and out of school. I will bring art into all of our schools as well as introduce young people to career paths in the creative industries. I will strengthen programs like the Mayor’s Mural Crew program to empower young people to make positive contributions to their neighborhoods. Additionally, by supporting the growth of businesses in the creative industry Boston can create jobs and opportunities that spans across the neighborhoods of Boston helping bring further economic development to the city through the arts.</p>
<p>Bill Walczak</p>	<p>Arts and culture are vital indicators of a city’s overall health, education and prosperity and at both Codman Square Health Center and Codman Academy Charter Public School, I expanded access to the arts for artists and residents of underserved communities. This includes many initiatives that have brought people together around critical social issues and in celebration of Boston’s rich diversity and historical assets; such as the Peace Tile Project, Boston Arts Millennium, Childhoods Interrupted by War, the Dorchester Artist Spirit and the Boston Landmarks Orchestra, among others.</p> <p>Codman Academy Charter Public School, which I co-founded, won the state’s highest award in arts and culture from the Massachusetts Cultural Council for our pioneering, in-depth partnership with the Huntington Theatre Company, where the theatre has become an “expeditionary learning” extension of our campus. When violence against youth spiked eight years ago, the partnership created the annual summer Shakespeare production, which continues to this day. This Thursday and Friday our students will perform on the Calderwood stage at the Boston Center for the Arts through the Huntington Theatre program.</p> <p>I have traveled to other communities, from Philadelphia to Belfast, to learn how others have leveraged the arts, culture and the creative community to tackle social problems and build community capacity. I have also participated in health and cultural missions to countries such as Vietnam and Nigeria to share our culture and connect with immigrant communities here in Boston.</p> <p>Under my Administration, Boston’s new Commissioner for Arts & Cultural Affairs will develop a stream of initiatives specifically to tackle social problems; and as one way to process real-time developments like the Boston Marathon bombing and the Trayvon Martin verdict. This work will happen in concert with a cross-section of organizational and individual stakeholders from outside City government; and like all aspects of our evolving priorities for the arts will be supported by inter-departmental City leadership.</p> <p>My new Creative Industries Office will work with other City departments to integrate the arts into my economic development plan. For example, I’m proposing a new East Boston Innovation District that could include affordable housing and shared work space for artists. We also will look at adapting the HandMade in America model to assist home-based craftspeople, often single moms, in our economic development, community revitalization and civic health plans; providing the infrastructure, training and wrap-around services for micro-artists to make the leap from limited home-based production to scaled and profitable enterprises.</p>
<p>Marty Walsh</p>	<p>As the first candidate in this race to vow to elevate the sector to a cabinet-level office in my administration (as it was under Mayor Flynn), I think my commitment is clear. Arts and culture impacts or can impact most if not all other policy areas in a municipal administration. This includes but is not limited to economic development, education, public safety, public health, human services, parks, transportation, city services and more.</p> <p>In my administration there will be a strategic reframing and naming of this sector to the Arts, Culture, Tourism and the Creative Industries (ACTCI), which is essential to the expansion of Boston’s</p>

	<p>creative ecosystem. ACTCI encompass all the key pillars that support and fuel the City's creative economy and help to grow our arts and culture. The addition of Creative Industries better reflects the artists of all disciplines, individuals, nonprofits, and for profit businesses who are the innovators and the contributors that are helping to make Boston one of the best cities in country. This repositioning and redefining of this sector better enables the City of Boston to be included at the policy table for this sector on statewide, national, and international levels.</p>
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