

Candidate	The Creative Economy
Felix Arroyo	<p>First, I think we must make an effort to retain the young talent who study at our art conservatories, elite art colleges and universities. We should create and expand artist housing and increase opportunities and places for their work to be exposed. I believe we need a more streamlined and transparent process for all those looking to do business with the City. Anyone opening a business or hosting an event in Boston should be able to find out how to by going to one place. I believe this will help attract more arts, cultural and creative organization to hold events in our city, bring exhibitions and open business here.</p>
John Barros	
Dan Conley	<p>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 artist live and work space (or work only space) that is affordable and benefits city residents. This housing location and assistance builds the physical creative communities which artists populate. 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> <p>I also see the arts community as playing a much more prominent role in the economic revitalization of individual neighborhoods. In Hyde Park for example, the Riverside Theatre is a significant presence and should be used to drive further economic growth and investment. There have long been plans to make Fairmount Avenue Hyde Park's avenue of the arts, but progress has been halting. As mayor, I will look to reenergize this type of integrated development not only in Hyde Park, but downtown and in every neighborhood so that the arts and creative communities are fully involved and invested and add to the cultural, social and economic fabric of each and every neighborhood.</p>
John Connolly	<p>We can't limit innovation to a district, and we can't have a definition of the "creative economy" that excludes working artists and musicians. The arts can make life better in all of Boston's neighborhoods, from the ArtPlacemgrant for the Fairmount-Indigo cultural corridor to murals to Paintbox. As mayor, I will work with artists and musicians to help them access opportunities to showcase their work or perform. That includes making it easier for artists to host events in public places, including simplifying the permitting process. It also means working with landlords who own vacant storefronts to consider making their space available on a temporary basis to artists who wish to host pop-up galleries, just as the Chicago Loop Alliance's Pop-Up Art Loop does. These types of efforts are critical if we are to make the arts a part of neighborhood revitalization.</p> <p>Boston's high cost of housing can make it difficult for working artists and musicians to find places to live and effectively accomplish their work. High housing costs should never force artists, musicians, or graduates of our city's arts and music colleges to leave Boston. Boston has been a leader in establishing affordable live-work space for artists. As mayor, I will build on the city's efforts. For example, we should look for opportunities to make city-owned land available for the creation of limited equity coops for artists, like 300 Summer Street. This is a way to give working artists some of the stability and benefits of homeownership while ensuring the properties' affordability in perpetuity.</p>
Rob Consalvo	<p>I will work to create a culture in city government that supports and encourages small businesses including members of the arts and culture community at the early stages of job creation. This includes ideas as easy as streamlining the process of doing business in Boston and expediting zoning - and more complex ideas such as finding creative ways to provide better access to funding opportunities.</p>

	<p>As mentioned previously, I've called for the creation a cabinet level Office of Innovation, Ideas and Technology that will be run by a chief strategy officer and will serve as a clearinghouse for innovation economy issues including the arts and cultural community. The CSO will also work to develop a strategic plan to leverage and enhance Boston's reputation as a world-class city, one in which entrepreneurs from around the world will continue to launch their great new ideas and art.</p> <p>Innovation districts, like cultural districts, can be established when a cluster of innovation or cultural activity is already in place or when a plan is created to fit into a creative economy strategy. A naturally occurring cultural district like The Fenway, which was recently designated by the Massachusetts Cultural Council as a cultural district—is an example where a cultural cluster was in already in place. When you walk along Huntington Avenue you can certainly see why this is so. The Innovation District in South Boston on the other hand was strategically planned and included real incentives like affordable office space for start-ups.</p> <p>Going forward, Boston will continue to have opportunities to recognize and create these types of creative economy districts. The path to this type of work is multi-faceted. In some cases, neighborhoods have to embark on a planning exercise to quantify their unique cultural assets and then begin to market them to the broader population. This is an exercise that can be helped in part by the BRA and Boston Main Streets, who both work city-wide. In other cases a community map and strategy needs to be created to establish a path to its full creative economy potential. This sometimes includes the creation of arts programming and facilities to house them. Instances where the arts are already flourishing that should be formally recognized as so, is the Theatre District, for example.</p>
<p>Charlotte Golar Richie</p>	
<p>Mike Ross</p>	<p>Equally as exciting as the expansion of Boston's technology-focused innovation economy is the recent growth and development of our creative economy. From advertising and new media firms to architects and interior designers; graphic and industrial designers to video game developers and gallerists, entrepreneurs in creative sectors are putting down roots across Boston. As Mayor, I would place a stronger focus on attracting, retaining, and supporting those businesses as drivers of jobs and economic development.</p> <p>I will extend existing business development resources to businesses in the creative economy and make them feel included in our city's broad strategy for developing the knowledge-based economy. Specifically, I will increase access to technical assistance and mentorship resources, and work to increase access to capital for the creative industry by brining Boston's investment community together with creative industry leaders. I will also work with leaders in the community to shape and build Boston's brand as a creative economy hub, supporting events and campaigns that promote the city's businesses and community.</p> <p>Additionally, to support our creative industries it is critical to support the underpinnings that attract and retain creative talent in Boston. That means addressing issues like housing, public transportation, and continuing to make Boston a highly livable city. As Mayor, I will support the development of new housing across the neighborhoods of Boston and strengthen on-site inclusionary zoning policies in order to create more dedicated live/work spaces. I will be a strong advocate for improved public transportation and will bring back late-night MBTA service so patrons of the arts have a safe ride to and from our city's arts and cultural offerings. I will also reform the city permitting process to support and inspire arts programming in our public spaces and neighborhoods.</p>

Bill Walczak	<p>One of my first actions will be to locate a Creative Industries Office within a revamped Development Authority, including a business accelerator for innovative creative economy ventures. For example, we'll support a network of pop-up stores, seasonal markets, and enhanced Open Studios. We need to engage and leverage support for Main Streets and other business district leaders to welcome the independent creative community in mutually beneficial way, both established and emerging. As I've said many times, every community should be an "innovation district" and integrating the creative community into overall community and economic development plans is critical, starting with my proposal for a new East Boston Innovation District. Also important is to transform Boston into a 24-hour city supportive of the lifestyle and work patterns of a 21st century urban creative community.</p>
Marty Walsh	<p>First of all, I do want to foster the Innovation Economy in Boston, but I think it can expand from there. Every neighborhood in Boston should be an innovation district. But, more specifically, in order to cultivate this and other creative industries-related sectors, we have to work on talent recruitment, talent retention and amenities. I've spoken extensively about workforce housing. I will be a champion for the development of workforce housing, so that artists and other working people, the heart and soul and backbone of the City, can afford stay here. We're making strides in affordable housing, and we're really good at building luxury units, but in order to strengthen the character of the City, we have to keep our working people here. I will also work to support the kind of amenities we need to attract the independent creative community – nightlife, transportation, etc.</p>