

Candidate	The New Administration's Role in the Creative Community
Felix Arroyo	<p>If we invest in the arts, we will see the benefit for our entire city. We already know that creative industries create jobs, strengthen our neighborhoods, and attract tourism that brings in revenue. I believe we should focus our resources on retaining artists by creating incentives to develop artist housing and studio space that is affordable. We should help create a clearer path for artists to open business and thrive in Boston.</p> <p>As Mayor, I would look at many different ways to bring new revenue into our city. We need to have serious conversations about raising revenue in a progressive way that invests in our city long term.</p>
John Barros	
Dan Conley	<p>One of the first things I would plan to do as mayor is a top to bottom review of the city's budget and spending. In advance of that level of review I can't yet say with certainty which revenue sources I would use or create. Understanding that there is a 7:1 ratio return on public investment in the arts, however, I absolutely view arts funding and support for the creative community as sound public investments both for their economic and social benefits. In addition, as the only candidate for mayor who has run a large, complex organizations, I would look carefully at how my administration is structured and would certainly look to the arts community for advice and ideas as to how best to position city government so that the relationship is productive and mutually supportive. The same goes for establishing program priorities that extend beyond my strong commitments to added arts education in our schools and support for artist housing and work space. Finally, I intend to file and push hard for legislation on Beacon Hill to secure greater local control over Boston's revenues. Our city is over-reliant on the property tax and needs greater flexibility to chart its own fiscal course. While every mayor before me has made this pitch, my argument will not be based on fairness, but on jobs creation. Simply put, giving Boston's mayor more control over the finances of the city opens up opportunities for jobs and economic development that Beacon Hill can't realize. As a major jobs creator, and a community with a shared interest in seeing the city gain more fiscal flexibility, I plan to enlist the creative community in this effort.</p>
John Connolly	<p>On our city's budget for the arts, we clearly can do better. Boston budgeted just over \$130,000 in direct funding for nonprofit arts organizations in 2013. This is less than one-hundredth of one percent of the city's total annual budget, and well below other cities like Houston, San Francisco, Seattle, and Portland, Oregon, which all provide direct annual funding in the millions of dollars. Meanwhile, the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), the state agency that provides direct funding to arts organizations, has experienced significant budget cuts in recent years. Particularly for small- and mid-sized arts organizations, stable sources of operating funds can be essential to helping them fulfill their missions. As mayor, I will explore opportunities to improve direct funding for arts organizations in the city.</p>
Rob Consalvo	<p>Boston's arts budget is a byproduct of state law that severely restricts Massachusetts cities and towns' revenue sources. It also bars the City from levying the kind of taxes, surcharges and fees (on meal and hotel tabs, for instance) that municipalities across the country use to support their art museums and concert halls, sports teams, parks and other public amenities.</p> <p>The city is "exceptionally dependent on a limited number of revenue sources, most notably the property tax," according to The Boston Foundation. Boston funds more than half its operating budget with tax revenues from residential and commercial property, a severely constricted source in a city where 52 percent of land is owned or occupied by government and nonprofits, both tax exempt.</p>

	<p>I will call for a top-down review of all agencies within the first 90 days of my administration to make sure that city agencies are meeting the needs of Boston's residents and this review will include the Office of Arts, Tourism and Special Events. I will call upon Boston's creative community to provide input into prioritizing programming needs and investment.</p> <p>In addition, 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. This office will work to create synergies and partnerships in the innovation economy including the arts and culture community and will help nurture and strengthen this important industry. In addition, I would include a member of Mass Creative as part of this office and I would ask this member to work to educate and maximize the reach that the art community plays in Boston.</p>
<p>Charlotte Golar Richie</p>	
<p>Mike Ross</p>	<p>Strengthening Boston's creative community will require identifying new resources to support our goals. That is why my Arts & Cultural Agenda starts with a commitment to implement a 1% For the Arts policy that requires new development projects in Boston to dedicate one percent of total project costs to public art or art programming in the city. This will generate a significant increase in funding for the arts across Boston. Cities from Seattle to Baltimore have had a long and successful history with similar policies and it is time Boston adopt it as well.</p> <p>I will also strengthen partnerships across the arts and creative community to support programming in our parks, schools, and public places. The relationship between the Rose Kennedy Greenway and the deCordova Sculpture Park and Museum is an excellent partnership example where an institution is lending its works to enhance the public realm and provide aligned programming. I will look for similar opportunities to leverage the resources of our arts community to support public programs. Additionally, I will look to increase funding for the city's own administrative focus on the arts and creative industries.</p>
<p>Bill Walczak</p>	<p>In early June, I committed to a Cabinet-level Commissioner for the Arts & Cultural Affairs. My restructuring of the Office of Arts, Tourism and Special Events will also result in a new Creative Industries Office within a revamped Development Authority to drive economic development related to the arts, culture and creative economies.</p> <p>Investing in a Development Officer for the arts and related economies will be critical to developing sustainable strategies that draw upon diverse funding streams and leverage powerful pro bono and in-kind resources often overlooked in favor of hard cash. Tapping Boston businesses that are part of the national Billion + Change campaign is one way to do this. Additionally, I'll create a Municipal Arts Fund funded in part by requiring 1% of the cost of publicly-funded construction projects to be added to the Fund; leveraging the PILOT (Payments in Lieu of Taxes) system; and inviting voluntary contributions via key payment mechanisms; e.g. for property and auto excise taxes.</p> <p>I've spent my entire career working within communities and across sectors to build shared visions, leverage financial and social capital, and engage people from all walks of life to build sustainable solutions for community success; often against steep odds. When we built the new \$18 million Gold LEED certified wing of the Codman Square Health Center, we recognized the holistic role of the Arts in a community's health and well-being by including a black box theatre – a first for Dorchester and for any community health center. My administration will use an assets-oriented approach as we work with communities to use the arts to build social capital, drive economic prosperity and develop</p>

	<p>unique identities as “arts and culture centers” with local, citywide and visitor appeal. And in addition to elevating our many established traditions, festivals and parades, the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commissioner will coordinate with Boston’s new Chief Service Officer to integrate Arts & Culture into emerging traditions that unify people through service and reflection, such as MLK Day and the September 11th National Day of Service & Remembrance.</p>
Marty Walsh	<p>As Mayor, I will work to increase funding to your historically underfunded sector. There is a need for a chief grant/development officer for the City of Boston. This person will be charged to better coordinate the City’s current efforts in grant seeking and sponsorship opportunities and would work in securing new grants and sponsorship that could be shared across several sectors. This key staff person would work collaboratively with all city departments and would provide support and expertise on specific grant/sponsorship opportunities being pursued by individual departments. Both the approaches of better leveraging of existing funds and of the creating of new funding streams will be under consideration as tools for increasing funding to this sector. For example, all housing, neighborhood, small business, and economic development specific grants/funding opportunities on local, state, regional and federal levels should also be leveraged, when possible, to also help grow resources for the sector.</p>