

Candidate	Personal Connection
Felix Arroyo	<p>I come from a family that has always been involved in the creative economy, beginning in our home. Both my parents shared a strong appreciation for the arts, introducing us to both visual arts and music. It was an important expression of our culture. My brother has made his artistic talent into a career in both music and photography. My other brother attended the Boston Arts Academy where he excelled in a variety of arts.</p> <p>This connection has strengthened my appreciation for artists and the work that they do. It is an important expression of who we are. As a son of Boston, I believe that our city should be one that is known not just for our outstanding art institutions, but also for a thriving art community and center for cultural experiences. The strength of our city is in our diversity and promoting the arts is a part of making this a vibrant city.</p>
John Barros	
Dan Conley	<p>I'll actually share two. The first came years ago, the first time I saw a live performance at the Riverside Theatre in Hyde Park. The Theatre was founded in the early 1980s and over the decades has introduced hundreds of children to live performance theatre, and thousands of residents to it as well. Seeing some of my own neighbors and my neighbor's children on stage was absolutely thrilling.</p> <p>This past year, I had another impactful experience, but this time I experienced through the eyes of my son. Coming out of his sophomore year in high school he had a number of electives to choose from. A teacher whom my son admired urged him to choose classes dedicated to the arts. This particular elective is under-attended as male students especially, at least among my son's peers, did not consider the arts to be very cool.</p> <p>My son just completed his junior year and this arts class was his favorite class in all four years in high school. His teacher was inspirational and through the arts, my son not only began to think and see things more creatively, but he also began to think in a more disciplined and linear fashion, something he certainly didn't expect, but positively noticed. Going into his senior year, not only is he continuing with his arts electives but a number of his friends have decided to join him.</p>
John Connolly	<p>I taught and lived on the Lower East Side of Manhattan in the mid-1990s. My students came from Alphabet City, the neighborhood that inspired the musical Rent. Living and working on the Lower East Side gave me the chance to live alongside and experience a thriving arts community, where I caught several bands playing during CBGB's last days as well as poetry slams and underground comedy shows in and around Ludlow Street. The artists left a lasting impression as so much of their work reflected thoughtful commentary and critique about urban struggles with gentrification and poverty, and quite frankly, why it is cool to live in the city.</p>
Rob Consalvo	<p>One of the most significant reference points for me in understanding the impact of the creative economy in Boston is the work I did with the arts and cultural community and existing neighbors in bringing the artist live/work space to the Westinghouse Plaza in Readville. This unique combination of artist studios and live/work space has helped bolster a burgeoning artist community in the area. The artist residents and non-artist residents are a welcome addition to the area, contributing to the local economy, shopping in local stores and dining in restaurants, and providing the public with an opportunity to participate in the vibrant local art scene. I am committed to making affordable housing opportunities –both rental and ownership - as well as access to transportation alternatives</p>

	<p>within a 5 minute walk a priority in my campaign for mayor. The artist live/work space at Westinghouse Plaza is one such example, located within walking distance of key bus and commuter rail options while also providing access to beautiful open space areas in the Southwest corridor of Boston.</p>
<p>Charlotte Golar Richie</p>	
<p>Mike Ross</p>	<p>I have had a lifelong appreciation for the arts as a powerful form of personal expression, and the arts and cultural communities of our city, and beyond, have been important influence on my work. As a high school student, I used to dread going to physics class, but I sat through it because I knew I would be able get to art class in the afternoon. Art -- in particular painting -- has been a passion of mine ever since and I have tried to continue creating art as an adult. In fact, one of my paintings hangs in Tasty Burger, a great restaurant that opened as part of the revitalization of Boylston Street in the Fenway.</p> <p>Beyond my own painting, the arts have had a tremendous impact on building strong community connections for me in Boston. From the afternoons at the museums of the Fenway along Huntington Ave to passing by street murals in Mission Hill; summer nights at Shakespeare in the Common and First Friday's from the South End to Jamaica Plain – the arts in Boston have introduced me to new friends, neighbors, and experiences that have brought me closer to my community. I have long championed the arts in Boston because to me the arts are a part of what makes Boston the vibrant, inspiring place to live.</p>
<p>Bill Walczak</p>	<p>As a young community organizer in the 1970s, I experienced firsthand the crime, racial tension and economic struggles of those times. But I saw how the arts brought people together and even built community; from Summerthing, which began as a way to keep the peace during a time of great unrest, to First Night, created by local artists to inspire people to experience Boston in a positive way. So, it made sense to me to incorporate arts and culture into our work at the Codman Square Health Center. One of our first initiatives was a youth art contest co-sponsored with the Codman Square Neighborhood Council. The winning picture was painted by a 12-year old girl in foster care. Despite all the challenges she faced in her young life and that Codman Square was experiencing as a community, this child saw life, beauty and togetherness. "The Mango Man" picture became an instant symbol of hope; a reminder that people are more likely to succeed in whatever circumstances they find themselves when they have a sense of identity and self-worth, which art can bestow. Over the years, we shared many copies of this wonderful work of art, including with visitors from around the world who spent time in Codman Square learning about our community building work. In the late 90s, a neighbor reproduced the picture onto ceramic tiles, as part of our Peace Tile Project. The picture never gets old for me, and is a continuing inspiration.</p>
<p>Marty Walsh</p>	<p>I won't impress this group in particular with my personal expertise or lifelong experience in art. My upbringing included many good things, but BSO concerts or a legacy membership to the Boston Athenaeum were not among them. But as I have grown, especially in my 16 years as a state legislator, I have seen the impact the arts can have across a wide range of issues, and their deep meaning to individuals and communities I care about, and I have fought tirelessly for your sector. I certainly won't stop as Mayor.</p> <p>I spent some time in Belfast a few years ago, and saw the way arts and culture make the city come alive. I've seen the transformation of the Combat Zone into the Theatre District, and worked in favor of all the legislation that made that possible. Because of my own personal background, I have a</p>

particular fondness for Medicine Wheel in South Boston, which works with young people, many of them court-involved and dealing with addiction problems. I've seen the power of that program.

I have a close advisor whose exploration of music led him to a career as an author, which has been instrumental in helping him cope with trauma. After losing four siblings and seeing his neighborhood hurt by poverty, crime, and addiction, he became a leading Boston activist, helping launch many antiviolenace initiatives, including gun-buyback programs. One of my campaign staff told me she realized recently, while reflecting on the death of Mayor White, that her successful career as a small business owner in the creative industries was largely because of his Summerthing program, which opened her eyes to the arts and the world beyond her neighborhood. I want that. When someone is thinking about my legacy as mayor, I want to be the person who helped put into place the program the inspired a working class kid from my city to do well and do good.