

Candidate Information

- Candidate Name: Jennifer Carter
- Legislative District: 29
- Candidate Website: www.carterforlegislature.com
- Candidate Preferred Email Address: jennifer@carterforlegislature.com

Q2

Are you aware of an agency of state government – the Nebraska Arts Council (NAC) – whose mission is to support the arts, humanities and creative activities in Nebraska?

- Very aware

Q3

The Nebraska Arts Council invested \$1.5 million in FY2019-20 state general appropriations in grants across the state to support arts programs and access, arts education programs, and supporting local arts councils and organizations. Most grant dollars required a 1:1 match. With which statement do you most agree?

- The NAC should receive the same amount of state funding in the coming fiscal year.

Comments:

- I am answering this question taking into account the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic impact this has already had and will have on the state's economy and the state's revenues. I will always support funding for arts and arts education. But I doubt it will be possible to provide increases in funding in any program in the near future.

Q4

Research has shown that arts education increases achievement across all academic disciplines, enhances student engagement, and fosters development of critical thinking and learning skills. How important do you think it is to have access and participation in arts education for youth in Nebraska schools?

- Extremely important

Q5

The State of Nebraska has curriculum standards in the fine arts, which includes art, music, theater, dance, and media arts. How important do you think it is for schools to have content-specific certified teachers in the arts?

- High Priority

Comments:

- I only learned recently that specific certification was not required for these subjects. I was surprised. I am not clear on what the specific solution looks like and what its impacts would

be. I have not spoken with other educators about this issue. But my initial reaction is to think specific certifications would be helpful and desirable.

Q6

According to data from the Creative Economy State Profiles, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reports that arts and cultural production accounts for \$2,943,343,023 and 2.4% of the Nebraska economy, contributing 28,735 jobs. The Nebraska Blueprint report recommends investing in “community vibrancy” projects to attract businesses and workers, increase tourism, and generate revenue for state and local government. How important do you feel state appropriations and policies to advance Nebraska’s creative industries (an example is this year’s LB943) are in relation to creating a strong economic future for Nebraska?

- Very important

Q7

In 1998, the Nebraska Legislature established the Cultural Preservation Endowment Fund to join the Nebraska Cultural Endowment to create a private-public partnership for providing stable funding for arts and cultural programs in the state. These funds must be matched dollar-for-dollar by private contributions. The earnings from both the state and private sides are then distributed to the Nebraska Arts Council and Humanities Nebraska to fund grants and programs all across the state. As a candidate for the Nebraska Legislature, what is your position in supporting this investment in Nebraska’s rich arts and humanities assets?

- Strongly Support

Q8

Nebraska adults have one of the highest the highest participation rate in the U.S. in annually attending an art exhibit or arts performance. Is there a specific arts or culture organization in your part of the state that you or your family particularly enjoy, or do you have an artistic talent or hobby?

- Yes

If yes, please list your talent/hobby and your favorite organization(s) here:

- I serve on the Board of Directors for the Friends of Lied and my husband serves on the Board of Directors for the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra. I used to dance and perform from childhood through college. My husband is a trombonist and our daughter play violin and percussion. My mother has always painted and my uncle was an artist and portraitist. Our home was full of art from our family and friends. I know first-hand how much art enhances our lives. Teaching youth about art and beauty enriches their lives, helps them learn, and helps them grow. It is critical to a vibrant community.

Q9

We welcome any additional comments or experiences you would like to make with regards to the arts in Nebraska. Please use the space below. Your comments will be posted on the Nebraskans

for the Arts website and in a voter guide of survey results received, sent to the network of arts advocates in the participating organizations.

My experience is that the arts are even more accessible in Nebraska than in other places. For example, the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra works hard to keep their ticket prices down to make it more accessible. The Lied Center brings in world class artists and shows that one might see in larger cities. I am so grateful for this and believe it is integral to making Lincoln an attractive place to live and do business.