

## Candidate Information

### Your name as it appears on the ballot

Ayesha Ghazi Edwin

### City, State & Zip

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108

### I am a candidate running for

City of Ann Arbor - City Council - Ward 3

### Party Affiliation - I am running as a/an

Democrat

### I am currently an elected official and hold the office of:

N/A

**As an elected official, you have an opportunity to lead and influence public policy and investment in the arts + creative industries.**

**What are your personal beliefs, interests and investments in the arts + creative industries? Please check all that apply.**

- I believe that the arts + creative industries are important and that they enhance and improve the quality of life, place and economy in our community making it a great place to create, live, work, learn, play and visit.
- People living in my community should have access to excellent and affordable art, creative, cultural and heritage offerings in our community.
- I believe every child in Washtenaw County should have access to excellent arts and creative education at every grade level.
- I am an amateur artist or creative and enjoy spending leisure time on these activities.

### Government/Municipal Planning - Integrating the Arts + Creative Industries

- Government/Municipal Master Plans
- Government/Municipal Strategic Plans
- Government/Municipal Economic Plans
- Government/Municipal Arts + Creative Industries Plan

### Commissions - Establishing & Investing in an Arts + Creative Industries Commission

- An arts + creative industries commission charged with developing, implementing, maintaining and evaluating a comprehensive arts and creative industries plan (including public art and design). This commission will have proper resources including a budget and qualified staff resources.

- A Public Art & Design Commission (standalone) charged with developing, implementing, maintaining and evaluating a public art and design program. This commission will have proper resources including a budget and qualified staff resources.
- Working to establish a countywide arts +creative industries commission and/or agency with equitable representation and shared investment responsibilities by all Washtenaw County governments to develop, implement, maintain and evaluate a comprehensive arts and creative industries master plan.

### **Public Investment & Policy - Arts & Creative Industries**

- Appropriations - direct spending on arts & creative programs such as including funding for commissions and qualified staff.
- Municipal grant program for projects and programs (not public art & design)
- Require the integration of public art & design into government building projects.
- Establishing a program that dedicates a determined percent of municipal construction budgets to be invested in public art & design projects.
- Economic development support/grants specific to arts and creative industry projects/programs.
- Contributed public safety and services for special/community events.
- Government grants/opportunities requiring municipal engagement– with or without community partners, leading, providing staff and financial resources for planning, applications, project implementation and reporting.
- Other grants/opportunities with or without community partners, leading, providing staff and financial resources for planning, applications, project implementation and reporting.
- Disaster relief funds and services should be afforded the arts + creative industries (for and nonprofit) as it is other Michigan industries.

### **Emergency Relief and Restoration**

- Yes, I will work to require that the arts + creative industries are included and have equitable decision making responsibility at economic development agencies.

### **Arts + Creative Education Integration for Student Excellent (ACEISE) in Washtenaw County**

#### **My pre-K-12 education included arts + creative education.**

- Yes, my pre-K-12 education included arts + creative education.

### **Arts + Creative Education**

Yes, I will be an advocate in support of arts & creative education.

### **What role do you believe elected officials and government agencies should play in leading arts and creative industry development and sustainability in their communities?**

It is our job to ensure access and funding for the arts. We should be ambassadors for the arts in our communities, and educate the public about the benefits of the arts, intellectually, economically, socially, politically, to public health, and to quality of life. We should advocate for the arts to be adequately and fairly funded, accessible to individuals of all abilities, integrated as part of our public school educational curriculums, on display, and be a guaranteed part of disaster relief assistance. We should make sure those in power and in places of decision-making

authority about the arts are diverse representatives, made up of people of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds, races, disabilities, religions, socioeconomic status, gender and sexual orientation, and lived experiences. We should work tirelessly to make sure that participating in the arts and learning the arts is accessible and affordable to all community members.

We know that communities with greater access to and enjoyment of the arts are healthier and happier. Access to the arts is for the public good, and its integration in our community is an equity issue.

**If elected, what role will you take in leading arts & creative industry development and sustainability in your community?**

My own personal story, I believe that the arts changed my life. Music and the arts were therapeutic for me as a child and as an adult, grounded me when I needed it, and helped me to gain scholarships to attend college (in both piano and the arts). I believe that everyone, and especially marginalized children and adults - such as those with disabilities, BIPOC, immigrants and or refugees, economically disadvantaged, those of marginalized gender identities or sexual orientations, etc. - need and should be guaranteed robust education in the arts through their schooling and participation in the arts in their community. We know that communities, and people, are more well-rounded, intelligent, healthier, and happier when they have access to and are able to participate in the arts. The role I will take in leading arts and creative industry development and sustainability in my community is by connecting with the local arts and creative scene, listening to their needs, advocating for more funding for the arts in our city and educational systems, and strengthening the Ann Arbor Public Arts Commission - as well as finding other ways that the arts can be more represented by and advocated for in our city government and community.

**If elected, I will be a leader and champion for the arts + creative industries in sessions, committee meetings and in my district. I look forward to working with and learning from those in my community practicing in, championing and advocating for the arts and creative industries.**

- Yes, I will be a leader and champion for the arts + creative industries.

**If elected, would you join a legislative arts, humanities and/or creative industries caucus?**

- Yes, I would join.