

Candidate Information

Your name as it appears on the ballot

Cynthia Harrison

City, State & Zip

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105

I am a candidate running for

Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 1

Party Affiliation - I am running as a/an

Democrat

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 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.

Public Investment & Policy - Arts & Creative Industries

- Require the integration of public art & design into government building projects.
- Contributed public safety and services for special/community events.

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?

Currently the primary role of elected officials and government agencies is to ensure the care and well-being of community members as we recover from the pandemic, for me personally that has been working with BIPOC and people with disabilities. An example of how that community has embraced and used arts for healing is the Black Lives Matter mural recently completed along the Border-to-Border Trail at Gallup Park. A Black Lives Matter mural is soon to be completed at Wheeler Park (named after Ann Arbor's first Black mayor).

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

I am on the Board of Directors for an organization that support people with mental illness in their recovery through meaningful work and relationships and since artwork is healing through expression, I would support prioritizing arts programing and budgeting there.

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.
- No, I will not 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.