

Candidate Information

Your name as it appears on the ballot

Desirae Simmons

Mailing Address

Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

I am a candidate running for

City of Ypsilanti – City Council - Ward 3

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.
- I serve on the board or volunteer at an arts, creative, cultural or heritage-based nonprofit business.
- I regularly make financial contributions to nonprofit art, cultural and/or heritage organizations.

Government/Municipal Planning - Integrating the Arts + Creative Industries

- Government/Municipal Master Plans

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

- 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)
- 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.

State of Michigan - Arts + Creative Industries Legislative Issues

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

Elected officials can help with creating opportunities for access to the arts to the residents in our community. I also see the Arts as an important space for healing and expression of social justice actions that can support our community well-being needs as well.

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

I'd like to connect with our Arts Commission around some collaborative projects.

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?

- No, I would not join.