

Candidate: Christine Jennings
Party: Democrat
State: Florida
District: 13



1. Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

Music	Theater	Visual Arts	Dance	Literary Arts
Additional Comments (optional):		I have been an active supporter of the Sarasota/Manatee arts community for 20 years, serving as Chair and Trustee for the John and Mable Ringling Museum Board of Trustees (current), President of the Sarasota Ballet of Florida, Director for the Florida Wes		

2. Background: The budget of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) was cut in half during the 1990s. With its current funding of \$124 million, the NEA spends just 41 cents per American – about the cost of a pack of gum.
Question: Do you support a significant funding increase for the National Endowment for the Arts, so that arts organizations in your district can present more high quality arts programs for all of its citizens?

Strongly Agree				
Additional Comments (optional):		I strongly support the arts as an important component of any thriving community. I will work hard to ensure any budget would include the funding needed to support the arts across the U.S. and here in Florida District 13. Sarasota is the arts capital of Florida. The arts are a significant factor in our economy and in our educational system.		

3. Background: Prior to the budget cuts of the 1990s, the NEA funded local arts agencies to make re-grants in their communities, ensuring strong local input and control over artistic programming, especially in rural and underserved areas. After the cuts, however, the re-granting program ended because of insufficient funds.
Question: Do you support dedicated funding for an NEA re-granting program for local arts agencies?

Strongly Agree				
Additional Comments (optional):		I would support a dedicated re-granting program because even small grants that carry the prestige of the NEA and the state arts agency help arts organizations raise more private money.		

4. Background: The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) defines the arts as a core academic subject, allowing school districts to use federal funding for arts instruction as well as for arts teachers' professional development. NCLB also authorizes an arts education grants program, currently funded at only \$35 million annually, that supports model programs and research to further school improvement through the arts.
Question: Do you support increased funding for the U.S. Department of Education's arts education grants program?

Strongly Agree				
Additional Comments (optional):		Parents and School Boards throughout our country need a better understanding of the roles the arts can play in the education of our children. Arts teachers are key to developing this understanding and providing high quality arts instruction. More funding		

5. Background: The Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which has been level-funded at about \$400 million for several years, is a major provider of arts programming on public television and radio.
Question: Do you support increased funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting?

Strongly Agree				
Additional Comments (optional):		I would support increased funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting because these broadcasts are an important educational component of our nation and an important audience-development tool for the arts.		

6. Background: Currently, art collectors can claim a fair market value tax deduction for works that they donate to cultural organizations, but artists can claim only the cost of materials when they donate work that they have created, regardless of its value.
Question: Do you support bipartisan legislation to correct this inequity and to ensure that museums, libraries, and other cultural organizations receive donations?

Strongly Agree				
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Additional Comments (optional):

For more detailed information on these arts policy issues, please visit:
www.ArtsActionFund.org/sc/LegislativePriorities

Completed By: Christine Jennings

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Please return survey responses by October 4, 2006 to 202.371.0424 (fax), or e-mail nrome@artsusa.org.

Questions? Please contact Narric Rome at nrome@artsusa.org or 202.371.2830.