



CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CANDIDATE NAME: NATISHA BROOKS

- 1) **CREATIVE WORKFORCE VALUE** - What impact does Nashville's creative workforce - actors, artists, dancers, musicians and the overall creative class - have on the city's identity and well-being?

Comments: Nashville's impact on the Creative Arts is important in many ways: First, in order for Nashville to maintain the "It" City status, we must acknowledge that it was music that brought us all together - no matter the ethnic group we belong to, it's music that heals our personal hurts that touch the lives of Nashville citizens. The entertainment business is vital in Nashville because it allows therapy in an era where Mental Illness is now an epidemic. Entertainment allows people to smile and escape for a moment situations in life that are ailing them. Arts and Entertainment are necessary to a world/society where depression is highest amongst all races and ages.

- 2) **CREATIVE CULTURE CRISIS** - Do you believe Nashville is currently facing a crisis, in which its creative workforce can no longer afford to sustainably work and live here? If so, what strategies do you have for addressing the crisis?

- a. YES
- b. NO
- c. PREFER NOT TO TAKE POSITION

Comments: The Creative Workforce of many are renting "couches" just at the chance to make it or be discovered in Nashville. Due to the property increases in Davidson County, landlords and leading agencies have passed the tax increase to the renters of Nashville. It's unfortunate to hear that those that have given their life savings to arrive in Nashville not have a home or "roof over their heads" to rest after many long hours of auditions and work in the entertainment industry.

- 3) **CREATIVE WORKFORCE HOUSING** - Would you prioritize the development of creative workforce housing (for example, through an MDHA initiative such as the Ryman Lofts)?

- a. YES
- b. NO
- c. PREFER NOT TO TAKE POSITION

Comments: A love for music and entertainment should set the standards of how elected officials help those who have a proven track record of work performance in Nashville. In

order for Nashville to remain the “Hospitality Center Of The South” - We MUST protect the Entertainment Business which includes affordable housing for present and future artists.

- 4) **CREATIVE SPACE** - Would you support publicly owned, unoccupied space to be transformed into creative development or presentation space for music and the arts in Nashville? What additional solutions to the lack of creative space would you explore as Mayor (such as preserving existing spaces through a land trust for historic venues and the like)?

- a. YES
- b. NO
- c. PREFER NOT TO TAKE POSITION

Comments: as Mayor of Nashville, many areas will be explored for housing the Artists of Nashville. Leasing corporations will be sought out and asked to hold affordable reduced units for entertainers in Davidson County. Private Investors who own single family homes will be approached and asked to rent rooms at rates that renters can afford based on their income.

- 5) **CITY ARTS FUNDING** - This city’s arts budget has not kept up with the growth of the artists and arts organizations in Nashville despite the growth of the city. Would you support funding Metro Arts at 1% of the combined Metro and MNPS budget? (Roughly \$30 Million of support annually.)

- a. YES
- b. NO
- c. PREFER NOT TO TAKE POSITION

Comments: Budget could be more than 1% depending on the review of the current budget that is passed to the Mayor Of Nashville. A review of the current budget is necessary before making a definite decision on what to put forth to the Council and Constituents of Nashville regarding the budget for Creative Artists.

- 6) **CITY RELIEF FUNDING** - The Arts & Business Council launched an Artist Relief Fund in 2020 to compensate for the cancellation of scheduled gigs or opportunities (such as a commission, performance, etc.), or due to layoff/furlough as a result of the March 2020 tornados and/or COVID-19 pandemic. It experienced such high demand that only half the applicants could be funded. Would you support the creation and funding of an ongoing emergency relief fund for Nashville’s creative workforce (similar to the Austin Music Disaster Relief Grant)? If so, at what level would you fund it?

- a. YES
- b. NO
- c. PREFER NOT TO TAKE POSITION

Comments: Situations that are beyond control should be taken seriously for Entertainers. As Mayor, there will never be a complete “shut down” of Davidson County. We will keep operations open in moderation and take into consideration of health policies given by State and Federal Government. Additionally as Mayor, working diligently with the State And Federal Government to receive additional funds is a must to keep our hospitality and entertainment industry successful for our county.

7) **MUSIC EDUCATION** - Do you commit to working toward the establishment of fully funded music, visual art, and/or theater arts programs in every Metro Public School? If so, what strategies would you employ?

- a. YES
- b. NO
- c. PREFER NOT TO TAKE POSITION

Comments: The "Arts" should be fully funded throughout the year.

Strategies

- A. Working with the State Legislature to request funds from the State Budget.
- B. Have a fully operational Grant Department Within the Mayor's Office to receive Grants from both private organizations and the federal government.
- C. Work with the Davidson County School Board to keep up to date with what is needed to keep all "Arts" programs fully functional for Metropolitan Students.

8) What other strategies are you exploring to support the creative economy in Nashville?

- Comments:*
- A. Partner with Non Profit Organizations to have fundraisers to fund "The Arts".
 - B. Quarterly public fundraising requests via radio/social media.
 - C. Quarterly Donation requests from Local, State and Federal Elected Officials to help fund "The Arts".