



## CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

CANDIDATE NAME: HEIDI CAMPBELL

- 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 is home to a world-class group of creatives that continues to grow year by year. Our film, television, and music industries continue to drive economic growth, and our theater, dance, and visual arts organizations strengthen our communities. A lot of people consider our creative workforce to be a value-add as opposed to a core focus for our city—I disagree. My mother is an actress and a poet, and I grew up in the theater community in our city. I am a singer/songwriter, and my chosen family are artists throughout all the creative disciplines. Nashville has not supported our creative workforce nearly enough. As mayor, I will work to support Nashville creatives with an emphasis on grant opportunities, funding for arts education, and workforce development support.

- 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:* I do. During our COVID lockdown I worked with the Nashville Musicians Association and Support Quarantined Musicians Group to get federal grant assistance, and we processed claims through my senate office. I was also able to get the Governor's office to increase the allotment to our state film and television grant. A lot of our creative workforce have struggled to rebound, and as Nashville becomes less affordable this has only gotten worse. My administration will use lease instruments as a workaround to state laws that prevent municipalities from incentivizing affordable housing.

- 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:* Absolutely. It's important to remember that it's illegal by state law for our city to require developers to include affordable housing in projects. But we can ask developers to do so, and we can leverage lease instruments to initiate public/private partnerships for creative workforce housing.

- 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:* YES! My administration's community school program will include prioritizing space and wraparound services for the arts—for children during school, and for adults after school hours. As a member of Nashville Historic Preservation Society, I am a strong advocate for preserving existing spaces through a land trust for historic venues.

- 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:* Absolutely!

- 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 tornadoes 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:* Yes. I worked with the Nashville Musicians Association to catalyze this funding and will definitely support creating a reserve for future needs. A \$1.5M fund with the option of applying for up to \$1K to cover immediate emergency needs is a good place to start.

- 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:* Yes! This could not be more important. Evidence clearly shows that vibrant educational arts programs improve outcomes in math, science, and language arts and are correlated with better mental health and higher graduation rates. I see these programs as a core value in our children's education.

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

*Comments:*