

Dennis Loughry

Tallmadge

In Summit County, a healthy and fully leveraged arts and cultural sector will **attract and retain talent** to our region, **build jobs** in the creative sector, **add significant value to the education** of our community's children, and serve a leading indicator of **economic prosperity and impact**.

The creative industry in the Akron MSA supports over **17,000 jobs and drives \$1.4 billion in economic activity**.

To learn more about the vibrant arts, culture, and environmental sector in Summit County, visit:

ArtsNow.org

SummitLive365.com

akronculturalplan.com

Arts and Culture Questionnaire for Summit County Mayoral Candidates

Below, you will find information and prompts related to important issues that impact the creative sector.

ArtsNow respectfully requests that you complete this questionnaire by

5PM on Thursday, April 6th, 2023 so your constituents can learn more about your arts and culture platform. Please respond as thoroughly as possible, as responses will be shared with the public and posted in their entirety online at artsnow.org.

Responses will be published at artsnow.org

Questions/responses begin on the next page.

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ONE: YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ARTS AND CULTURE

Please give us a sense of your relationship with the arts and culture sector. Keep in mind that our sector is made-up not only of nonprofit organizations, but also artist entrepreneurs and creative businesses and venues.

Response Prompt(s):

- What arts and culture events, performances, or experiences have you attended in the last year?
- What arts/culture organizations or commissions have you supported as a board member, volunteer, donor, or season ticket holder?

Please list cultural groups and experiences, even if they have not taken place locally.

Candidate Response: DENNIS LOUGHRY

My wife and I are founding patrons of the Dynamics Community Theater of Tallmadge, an inter-generational theater group in its 30th year, and attend productions and buy ads and sponsorships on a regular basis. We are both past presidents of the Tallmadge Foundation (and my wife a founding Trustee) which has the arts as one of its core pillars. We support all that the Tallmadge City School District does in the arts arena as well as the city with its concerts in the Circle series. I also served on the board of the Akron Roundtable which has strong ties to the local arts community. My wife and I also recently took a Beach Boys cruise which included several musical groups in addition to The Beach Boys.

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TWO: ADVOCACY

The role of mayor includes in large part being a cheerleader and advocate for your city and the assets that make our communities special. During the process of creating the [Akron/Summit Cultural Plan](#), we heard loud and clear that residents want an administration that will make the arts and culture a centerpiece of their administration and legacy and who understands the importance of the arts to the city's economic development, tourism, public spaces, vibrancy, cultural brand, and quality of life.

Response Prompt(s):

- As mayor, how will you use your position to strengthen the arts and culture sector in the city?
- Where will arts and culture fall within your priorities?

Candidate Response: DENNIS LOUGHRY

Personally we will continue to financially support Tallmadge Dynamics, the Tallmadge Foundation, and the school district. As Mayor I will study our present budget allocation in Parks and Recreation for the arts and see if any adjustments need to be made.

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THREE: RESOURCES

A healthy cultural sector requires sustainable funding sources in order to maximize its potential for community impact. We must invest in our cultural hubs and venues. We must investigate and leverage new funding sources, and we must explore new resources for our sector.

Response Prompt(s):

- What leadership would you provide to ensure sustainable funding of the arts and culture sector?

Candidate Response: DENNIS LOUGHRY

I would ask my Director of Public Service to evaluate what we are presently doing with the Parks and Recreation Manager and make some recommendations to me within their budget constraints. I would also have my Community Development Director search for and apply for any available grants.
