

Mark Greer

Akron

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: MARK GREER

Tuesday Musical concerts, Cleveland Orchestra, Akron Symphony, University of Akron School of Music, University of Rhode Island, Philadelphia Orchestra, Carnegie Hall, Akron Art Museum, Cleveland Art Museum, Cleveland Museum of Natural History, Civic Theatre, Immersive Van Gogh Cleveland, jazz concerts
Tuesday Musical Board Member and donor

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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: MARK GREER

As a member of the arts community myself, As Mayor, Arts & Culture will play a central role in my administration. I will establish a cabinet level position of Director of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy to advance strategic arts and arts oriented economic activity throughout the city and Greater Akron, giving this sector the attention it deserves and has long been needed in our community. We will fully fund the public arts commission, and provide direct investments to our local artists, musicians and creatives. Arts and Culture will no longer be a nonessential issue in my administration, but a priority.

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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: MARK GREER

I will ensure that arts & culture is a fixed line item in the city budget, and will leverage my years of experience and relationships in the arts community to increase and expand partnerships with local, regional, state, and national arts organizations to create new pipelines of funding for our arts & cultural ecosystem.

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FOUR: PUBLIC ART (ONLY FOR CITY OF AKRON MAYORAL CANDIDATES)

In 2020, Akron City Council formally adopted the Akron Public Art Master Plan which included:

- a thoughtfully designed Administrative Guide has been provided here as an attachment and which is available at <https://www.akronpublicart.com/how-does-it-work>;
- established a Commission to be fully and appropriately staffed by the City of Akron;
- codified a commitment of one percent (1%) TIF Percent for Art to be used exclusively for the development and maintenance of the visual public art collection of the City of Akron;
- adopted the national definition of public art to be any visual art available to the public a minimum of 40 hours per week which has been paid for with public dollars or resides on public land;
- and committed to staff developing and presenting an annual work plan and budget to Akron City Council in order to be included in the General Operating Budget.

Response Prompt(s):

- How would your administration ensure the structures and processes created in collaboration with City staff are being fully realized and implemented?

Candidate Response: MARK GREER

By implementing an arts and culture director position in my cabinet, I will raise this sector not only to a new level of importance in city government, but a new level of accountability not seen before in City Hall. This position will ensure that strategic goals and initiatives laid out by Akron Public Art Master Plan, our administration, and our local and regional arts partners and organizations are fully realized and implemented. By the end of my first term, we endeavor to fulfill and exceed the above stated goals of the Master Plan.
