

Tara Mosley

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.

Tara Mosley

Akron

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: TARA MOSLEY

I love going to shows at Blossom and some of our other great venues downtown, like Jilly's Music Room, Musica, Akron Civic Theatre, and others. My favorite recent concert was when I got to the chance to see Maroon 5. I've also volunteered at with Leven Lens at Summit Lake.

Tara Mosley

Akron

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: TARA MOSLEY

A city fosters arts and culture by fostering people. So, a fundamental thing that a mayor and government can do to strengthen arts and culture in our community is to make the city livable. This means having an administration that is dedicated to improving public safety, creating affordable housing, developing the economy, and expanding access to mental health services. Those will be the priorities of my administration. And, as it relates to art and culture specifically, I believe that, to strengthen our arts and culture sector, we need more artists. I will make sure that the city government provides opportunities to local artists and musicians on an equitable basis, spreading out the resources we provide to a broad base of creatives.

Tara Mosley

Akron

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: TARA MOSLEY

The arts are not just important economic engines for our city; they are also important for healing our city. The therapeutic nature of community art was especially reinforced for me when I participated in painting the Black Lives Matter mural on Howard Street in my Ward. Art brings people together. So, it is critical that the city provide adequate and sustainable funding for the arts. But we shouldn't stop there.

While the city budget is an important place to support our artists, it's not the only place to support our artists. We have wonderful partners in this community dedicated to funding the arts, whom I would support using the position and influence of the mayor's office. That way, we would have an entire ecosystem dedicated to supporting artists in this city. We all benefit when Akron has art. So, under my administration, we will make an Akron for artists.

Tara Mosley

Akron

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: TARA MOSLEY

My administration will not just ensure that the Akron Public Art Master Plan is implemented, but it will also ensure that it is expanded upon. We need to provide greater support to our artists and to our arts community. The only way to make that happen logistically is to commit to the plan, and that commitment is only possible if we have an administration that prioritizes the arts. That will be my administration.
