

1. Please complete the following general information. Thank you.

Candidate's Name: - Frank Wood

Candidate's Web site: - www.FrankWood.org

2. Please check the office below that you're running for in 2010:

Florida House of Representatives

3. If you're running for either the Florida Senate or House of Representatives, please indicate the district below:

25

4. Background: According to Dun & Bradstreet January 2010 data, there are over 47,564 arts-related businesses in Florida that employ over 184,436 people. In 2008, Florida's arts and culture not-for-profit industry generated over \$3.1 billion in local economic activity and delivered more than \$446.5 million in local and state government revenue. The arts and cultural industry is even recognized as critical to Florida's economic development in Enterprise Florida's Roadmap to Florida's Future 2010-2015 Strategic Plan for Economic Development. Statement: State appropriations and policies to advance Florida's creative industries (including arts, cultural, historical, humanities, science, and arts education resources) are extremely important to Florida's strong economic and innovative future.

I strongly agree.

Comments - The arts are clearly and economic asset to our communities. Besides the direct employment that the arts provide, there is an indirect (multiplier) economic effect. Local businesses near art venues (e.g., restaurants, shops, galleries) benefit from the attendees at arts events. Further, as stated in the preface to the question, tax revenue generated directly and indirectly from arts events play an important role in revenue enhancement.

5. Background: In the last three years, Florida's funding for its arts and cultural resources has been reduced from \$34.7 million in FY 2006-2007 to \$950,000 for FY 2010-2011. Florida now ranks 49th in per capita funding in state appropriations for its investment in arts and cultural resources, only 5 cents per Floridian. These drastic state cuts weaken the infrastructure that sustains this critically important industry, an industry vital to our state's overall economic and qualitative well being. Statement: Restoring state investments in Florida's vibrant arts and cultural resources produce significant returns. Increases not only to restore but also to advance funding for the arts and culture is essential to sustain Florida's creative industries' impact on economic development, jobs, tourism, downtown revitalization, health and wellness, student achievement, crime prevention, and quality of life.

I strongly agree.

Comments - There are two negative outcomes resulting from underfunding the arts: (1)

The maintenance of the community of the arts as a viable and ongoing enterprise is placed in jeopardy. In short, once a symphony or theater is gone due to lack of support, then its revival is difficult and, in some cases, impossible due to the loss of continuity and talent. (2) The quality of life and level of civility in a community is greatly diminished with the absence of the arts.

6. Background: State and national research indicates that arts education is critical to help prepare students for a future workforce that will depend upon creativity and innovation. The Florida Department of Education recently completed research that demonstrates (1) For the general population, the more music and arts classes taken, the higher the student achievement in all measures; (2) For students on “free and reduced lunch,” an indicator of socioeconomic levels, the more music and arts classes taken, the higher the student achievement in all measures; (3) For students divided by ethnicity, the more music and arts classes taken, the higher the student achievement in all measures; (4) The more arts classes taken, the less likely a student is to dropout of school. Statement: Local, state, and federal policy makers must work collectively and collaboratively to provide adequate funding and policy support to ensure that all our students can study one or more of the fine arts (music, dance, theater, and art) taught by certified fine arts teachers as a requirement of their graduation.

I strongly agree.

As a thirty-year public school educator, I can attest to the following: The contribution of arts education to individual academic achievement is well documented and compelling. In addition, quality arts education in the school setting enhances the positive climate and atmosphere of a school, thereby transcending benefit to the individual, and enhancing the aggregate school community. Further, student-art-performances (music, dance, theater and visual) ties a community closer to the school, bringing the neighborhood to the school and enhancing community support for the school as a community institution. Finally, when you ask any adult what they remember about school, they never mention a standardized math test . Instead, their eyes shine as they recount the play that they were in, or the concert in which they performed or the prize they earned for a painting. Such things are not quantifiable in economic terms, but contribute immeasurably to one’s quality of life. I strongly feel that such experiences are worthy of meaningful state support for they contribute to our overall level of civility.

7. Please share with us below your thoughts about and experiences with arts and cultural resources -- thank you so much:

In summary, the arts serve vital social roles and are most worthy for significant state support for the following reasons: (1) As a economic enhancement (directly and indirectly) (2) As a means to improve the quality of life for an individual and our communities. (3) As a social legacy that connects generations and promotes civility, inquiry ... and challenges us all to be better humans.