

Thursday, September 16, 2010
10:35 PM

Candidate: Robert Kunst
Party: No Party
Affiliation
State: Florida
District: 20



Question: What is your personal background and experience in the arts? (check all that apply)

Instrumental Vocal Visual Dance Theater Photography Literary Other

Additional Comments (optional): I have played 'mas' in 130 Trinidad/West Indian Carnivals, and produced 2 myself in Miami Beach in the last 20 yrs..

Question: What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last year?

Music Theater Visual Arts Dance Literary Arts Other None

Additional Comments (optional): I have played 'mas'(In costume) in Carnivals in Trinidad, am King of Carnival in Tampa; Pete, West Palm, Lauderdale Lakes, Wash., D.C., Toronto, Boston, NYC, Miami Carnivals. The world needs this energy, color, music and dance. see above

Background: The budget of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) was cut in half during the 1990s. With its current funding of \$167.5 million, the NEA spends just 54 cents per American—about the cost of a pack of gum.

Question: Do you support a significant funding increase for the National Endowment for the Arts, so that arts organizations in your district can present more high quality arts programs for all of its citizens?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Undecided

Additional Comments (optional): 'Caribana' in Toronto gets 1million and \$300millions into local economy. There are ways to funds these projects on many levels and matching grants as well.

Background: The *Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA)* defines the arts as a core academic subject, allowing school districts to use federal funding for arts education instruction. However, implementation of ESEA (also referred to as the *No Child Left Behind Act*) has dramatically reduced the time spent teaching the arts around the country and increased the need for federal-level research measuring the status and condition of the arts.

Question: Would you strengthen arts education and research through the ESEA reauthorization process?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Undecided

Additional Comments (optional): In these very dangerous times, the arts are 'tension prevention', growth, critically needs to bring people together and to reduce the stress and is vital for funding. It's also jobs.

Background: Since 2001, the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) has administered a small (funded at \$40 million in FY10) "Arts in Education" program that awards model grants to school districts to conduct arts integration and improve instruction. USDE has now made over 170 of these competitive grant awards around the country.

Question: Would you support expansion of this grant program to allow for these programs to be replicated?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Undecided

Additional Comments (optional): The more, the better, locally, nationally and internationally

Background: Currently, art collectors can claim a fair market value tax deduction for works that they donate to cultural organizations, but artists can claim only the cost of materials when they donate work that they have created.

Question: Do you support bipartisan legislation to correct this inequity and to ensure that museums, libraries, and other cultural organizations receive donations?

Strongly Agree Agree Disagree Undecided

Additional Comments (optional): The arts unite us and are vital on every level including our sanity. Everything on these issues I support and even more.

For more detailed information on these arts policy issues, please visit:
www.ArtsActionFund.org/LegislativePriorities

Completed By: Robert Kunst, 'independent' candidate for Congress, Dist. 20 Date: 9/16/10

Please fax or e-mail survey responses by October 12, 2010 to 202.371.0424 or jsrieter@artsusa.org.

Questions? Contact Arts Action Fund Coordinator Jessica Strieter Eling at jsrieter@artsusa.org or 202.371.2830.