

POLK ARTS ALLIANCE
CANDIDATES' QUESTIONAIRRE RESPONSE SUMMARY

CANDIDATES BY NAME: DISTRICT #	Sarah Fortney Polk County School Board, District 3 sdfortney@msn.com	Scott Jones Polk County School Board, District 3 contact@scottjonesforpolk.com	Dr. LaTrice Moore Polk County School Board, District 3 mooreforpcsb@gmail.com	Terry L. Clark Polk County School Board, District 5 4ever1@usa.com	Kay Fields Polk County School Board, District 5 kayfields32@gmail.com	Jennifer Sabin Polk County School Board, District 5 jennifer@brucesabin.com	David G. Byrd Polk County School Board, District 7 davidgbyrd@gmail.com
QUESTION: 1. In the past six months, how many local arts/culture/heritage-related events have you attended at a POLK County venue?	11 + Art Work Lakeland, MLK City Hall, Youth Fair, Mulberry Black History, Greek Festival, NAACP WH Community Center, Lk. Wales Art Show, Heritage Museum Bartow, Bartow Adult Concert Band, Lk. Gibson High Black History production, PCSB Art in Munn Park, Black History at Theatre of WH, Mulberry Cultural Center for the Arts, Dundee Elementary Festival of Arts, Munn Park Art/Flower Festival, Bok Tower Music, Simpson Park Fair, Coleman Bush Juneteeth, HC Juneteeth, Lk. Alfred Plaque dedication for Fruitland Inst.	1-5 FBA High School MPA at Teneroc, Florida Dance Theater Spring performance	1-5 When You Dream: A Legacy of Giving, Wizard of Oz	1-5.	11+ Prodigy Cultural Arts classes and performances , Mulberry Cultural Arts Festival, Lakeland Magic Black History summit, Fine Arts Festival, MLK Jr. Celebration, MLK Oratorical Contest, MLK Essay Awards, Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance Breakfast, MLK Parade/Lakeland and Bartow, Paul Diggs Neighborhood Association Banquet, Performances at Harrison School for the Arts and Rochelle School for the Arts	6-10. MLK Day parade; Polk Museum of Art Member's Receptions; Alliance for Independence Wine Festival; First Friday, Lakeland; Downtown Curbside Market, Lakeland; Day of Prayer, Lakeland; PEACE Celebration; Freedom Fund Gala; Art+ Dance at PMoA;	1-5 Lake Alfred Bluegrass Festival Judy Family Bluegrass Concert Polk County Student Art Exhibition – Munn Park Kathleen Historical Society Native Dance Performance in Honduras
2. In the past year, have you financially supported the arts in Polk through either purchase of a Florida Arts License tag, donations, volunteer work, memberships or sponsorships (either individually or as a decision-maker for your company/organization)?	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
3. Through independent research, a direct link ha been established between the arts and the following list of important community builders. Based on your understanding of the linkages, please rant the arts' contributions to each, using 1 - 4 where 1 shows the deepest connection, 2 the next deepest, etc. Please assign a rank to each.	<div><div>3 Economic Development</div><div>4 Tourism</div><div>1 Education & Workforce Development</div><div>2 Quality of Life</div></div>	<div><div>4 Economic Development</div><div>3 Tourism</div><div>2 Education & Workforce Development</div><div>1 Quality of Life</div></div>	<div><div>1 Economic Development</div><div>4 Tourism</div><div>2 Education & Workforce Development</div><div>3 Quality of Life</div></div>	<div><div>2 Economic Development</div><div>3 Tourism</div><div>1 Education & Workforce Development</div><div>4 Quality of Life</div></div>	<div><div>1 Economic Development</div><div>1 Tourism</div><div>1 Education & Workforce Development</div><div>1 Quality of Life</div></div>	<div><div>4 Economic Development</div><div>3 Tourism</div><div>2 Education & Workforce Development</div><div>1 Quality of Life</div></div>	<div><div>4 Economic Development</div><div>3 Tourism</div><div>2 Education & Workforce Development</div><div>1 Quality of Life</div></div>
4. Two-part question: How do you feel Polk County arts/culture/heritage should be funded and what is your rationale for that position? (e.g, Private sector funding only; public/private partnership; publicly funded, etc.)	<u>Public funding</u> because I equate the arts to education which is funded by tax dollars. Education and arts in public schools goes hand in hand. In place of being the first programs cut our art programs should be the first to be funded.	<u>Funding:</u> Public/private partnership <u>Rationale:</u> I believe the best way is to have all to be privately funded. If there are programs that cannot raise the private funds and provide a value to the citizens then we should fund them with public funds. If public funds are given, there should be oversight to ensure those funds are used for their intended purpose.	<u>Funding:</u> Public & Private Partnerships <u>Rationale:</u> The arts are a vital part to the economic development of our community. With that being said, it is important to have public su	The basic funds should be provided through the county budget. Then Grants need to be applied for. Finally, other funds or scholarships can be provided through community organizations.	<u>Funding:</u> Combination of public and private funding and Public and private partnerships. <u>Rationale:</u> Funding for the Arts should come from the total community. The school district should invest in the Arts through the schools. The county and local governments should provide public sector investments to leverage state level participation and to provide leadership for greater private sector partncicipation and partnerships.	<u>Funding:</u> All of the above <u>Rationale:</u> We can increase the opportunity to expose our community to art by pursuing and accepting funding from private, corporate, and public sources. Relying too heavily on a single source of revenue can have a limiting effect on the types of art, culture, and heritage opportunities that are available.	<u>Funding:</u> Art and Music instruction is very important in our school system. <u>Rationale:</u> Funding is provided for instruction. However, additional sources of income are needed to provided instruments, uniforms, supplies, and other related expenses. Public and private support is an ongoing need.
5. If elected, would you advocate for and support the arts as part of the area's economic development/tourism and education mix?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
a. If you answered YES, would that support result if favorable vots/policy decisions on arts-related issues that come before the elected body on which you wish to serve? Or, alternatively, explain how you would support/advocate for the arts.	Yes, we need to expand programs already in place at our schools, Tag art contest, young artist showings in professional spaces, water conservation and of course have full time instructors at each school...not split between five schools.	I would be available to arts groups to discuss their needs. If they are having trouble with something that I could help with, I would do what I could.	I am a member of Leadership Lakeland Class 35. On our Arts day, we saw only a hand full of the amazing organizations and schools that have the arts embedded in them. It was an eye-opening experience. I am 100% on board with advocating for our county's arts programs.	I will always support the arts. I believe the arts need to be a part of our school system, not just for Harrison. Music at my school (Southeast HS, Bradenton) impacted my life and my career.	Our school board has a strong history of supporting the arts in our schools and believes that the Arts hold transformative potential for ALL students and that all children should have access to the arts. I pledge to continue this practice as a school board member.	Exploring the arts is an important part of a well-rounded education. Every student should have the opportunity to be exposed to performing and creative arts as well as a chance to pursue them as part of their K12 education.	YES – I will be an advocate at the state and national levels for additional funding for performing, visual, and practical arts programs. Weighted FTE funding is a priority for quality programs.
6. Would you be willing to publicly champion the arts, either as a celebrity host for arts-related events, as part of an arts-related speaker's bureau or other? Why or why not?	YES - It would be an honor to show support for past, present and future artists of Polk County.	YES - I believe the arts are important. My father played piano and my mother was a flautist in the Army band. My sister was a ballerina for many years and I helped with the stage and appeared in performances. I played Euphonium in high school and was the drum major of my high school band. I know how being involved in these types of activities can enhance your life. If I can be of help to raise awareness and funds to support good programs, then I will do it.	YES -I understand how important the arts are as it relates to economic development.	I love children and whenever I can be a model or an encouragement to them, that is a high priority.	YES - I have seen first-hand what impact the arts have in the lives of youth through my work at Girls Inc. The Arts develop the students' creativity, problem solving and critical and evaluative skills while deveoping their self-confidence and positively influencing each student.	Yes. I enjoy experiencing the arts and sharing my excitement for that with others.	YES -I am a firm believer in speaking up for students' needs.
7. Would you be willing to take a scheduled tour of Cultural Arts Council members and their facilities to better understand their role in community building and economic prosperity.	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

Lisa Miller
Polk County School Board, District 7
Lbmiller1101@yahoo.com

11+ WH theater summer camp production Wizard of Oz – Be One w/100

Fundraiser for Sidestreart Art Beat Inc. – WHHS Jazz Band performances – 26th Annual Polk County Video Awards – Cookie Concert at FSC – Rockin on the River at Camp Mack – Polk County Schools Fine Arts Jazz Festival at Munn Park – Art Centric Studios Doll House summer camp – MayFair – Patio 850 for Signor & Sutherland Live – Theater of Lakeland Fancy Nancy – Harrison School of the Arts Into the Woods – Performances at the Derry Down in Winter Haven – Polk Museum of Arts summer programs & more..

YES

3 Economic Development

__4__ Tourism

2 Education & Workforce Development

1 Quality of Life

Funding: Public/Private Partnership

Rationale: I think it takes a collaborative relationship between the private sector and public funding. A community who invests in the arts will push to make it a priority and in turn the arts community will drive economic development and a desirable quality of life in that area. Public grants are necessary and represent a culture and understanding of the social and economic benefits of a prosperous arts community. We should advocate for those public dollars but have an awareness that they sometimes are non-reoccurring and can have more restrictions on how the funds are spent.

YES

Yes – As a school board member I would vote in favor of increasing access to art programs for all students. I would be in favor of creating local and state partnerships to develop and maintain programs in communities around the county.

YES - I would be honored to champion the arts and share my experience of how my life has been enriched by the local arts programs. I currently present an annual award for the Polk County School's Instructional Television Awards Ceremony.

YES!