

Mayoral Candidate James DeLeon's Answers to Artists Vote Questions

1. **Empowering the Arts** - Will you create and budget a new Philadelphia Department of Arts and Culture, or do you plan to maintain the Office of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy as a program within the Managing Director's office? Explain your answer in detail.

Yes I would create a cabinet-level position to oversee the administration of the Philadelphia Cultural Fund and to ensure that the money budgeted for arts and cultural development is used to stimulate public interest in the arts, support local artists and their projects, the Mural Arts program, build a vital infrastructure to support artistic projects and programs, create jobs for Philadelphians interested in furthering the goals of a creative economy and support both non-profit and for profit ventures engaged in creative, cultural and artistic endeavors.

2. **Effective Leadership** - Simply establishing a Deputy or Department of Arts and Culture is not sufficient – identifying and hiring an effective leader is critical. What will be your process for selecting the Deputy/director of the Department of Arts and Culture?

As Mayor, I would only hire leaders who understand the importance of cultural equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging. My administration would strive to develop city workplaces that are safe havens for people with different beliefs and employees should feel comfortable expressing themselves without fear of retribution or retaliation from either peers or supervisions. The city will continue to support culture days and create flexible mandatory holidays that recognize the cultural diversity of the city's population and employees. The City through its work environment will encourage diversity discussions by and among its employees with the goal of instilling a level of inclusiveness and acceptance of everyone, especially those who may be perceived as "different".

3. **Support for The Philadelphia Cultural Fund** - How do you stand on support for the Philadelphia Cultural Fund (PCF)? Would you maintain the current PCF budget or increase it? Explain your answer fully and focus especially on funding. (PCF is an independent 501 c 3 nonprofit established by the city in 1991 as the mechanism by which the city directly, consistently, and without political influence, supports the city's nonprofit arts sector and its community of artists.)

The Philadelphia Cultural Fund would receive the 3.5 million dollars necessary to continue its mission of providing necessary financial support to hundreds of arts and cultural organization.

4. **New Initiatives** - How will your administration financially support the city's arts and culture sector? Are there initiatives that your administration would establish?

I would also have my cultural cabinet member investigate the Art Train, a virtual technical assistance program, that is aimed at developing collaboration between artists and municipalities. Through the Art Train program, the artist will build on their existing skills to engage in and with their communities. All training for the artist would be at no cost to the artist as the city would subsidize the training costs. I realize that communities that invest in the arts reap the additional benefits of jobs, economic growth and a quality of life that positions a community like Philadelphia in a better position to compete in a 21st century creative economy. Therefore, as Mayor, I would fund the Philadelphia Visitors' Bureau and our various Chambers of Commerce, support national and international ad campaigns and sister city visits as a way to bring more tourists to Philadelphia since arts and cultural tourists spend more money and visit longer in an art and cultural destination City.

5. **Artist participation** - Unlike in the past, today there is little or no representation of Philadelphia's arts community within the Office of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy to inform its work. What do you see as the value of such representation? What level of priority would it be to you to reestablish that representation?

Under my administration, a representative of the Arts community would have a high priority in the following:

1. Promoting the use of art venues as civic engagement spaces and the participation in art programs as opportunities for civic engagement;
2. Providing training through academic or other professional programs for artists and arts practitioners to become effective leaders and partners in civic dialogue and acquire the skills and sensibilities to effectively work in civic contexts;
3. Creating opportunities for mutual learning and exchange among art professionals and professionals in the public engagement fields;
4. Holding city forums and workshops to build skills that enable effective arts and civic engagement partnerships. These partnerships would connect artists and cultural and community leaders with each other.

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Mayoral Candidate Rebecca Rhynhart's Answers to Artists Vote Questions

1. **Empowering the Arts** - Will you create and budget a new Philadelphia Department of Arts and Culture, or do you plan to maintain the Office of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy as a program within the Managing Director's office? Explain your answer in detail.

The Rhynhart Administration will advocate for a charter change to establish the Department of Arts and Culture within our city's government structure. In the meantime, I will appoint a Deputy Mayor of Arts and Cultural Affairs, who will serve in my cabinet. This Deputy Mayor will focus on supporting artists and cultural organizations, investing in the creative economy, and expanding access and participation in the arts throughout Philadelphia's neighborhoods.

The Deputy Mayor of Arts and Cultural Affairs will oversee the Office of Arts and Culture, Mural Arts, the Philadelphia Film Office, and the Office of Special Events. This individual will ensure these offices and agencies streamline event permitting, attract film production, develop a nightlife and entertainment strategy, and coordinate to serve as a hub for every aspect of the creative economy that touches our city.

The Deputy Mayor of Arts and Culture will lead the city's efforts to support the thousands of nonprofit arts organizations throughout our city with resources, capacity building, and teach-ins. In addition, the Deputy Mayor of Arts and Culture will help develop programs and services that specifically address the needs of the creative economy, with a keen eye on small businesses, especially BIPOC and women-led. The city needs to see these businesses as essential to the initiatives that drive economic growth.

2. **Effective Leadership** - Simply establishing a Deputy or Department of Arts and Culture is not sufficient – identifying and hiring an effective leader is critical. What will be your process for selecting the Deputy/director of the Department of Arts and Culture?

The individual who takes on the role of Deputy Mayor of Arts & Culture must be someone who brings a first-hand perspective of why arts and culture are integral to the fabric of our city and Philadelphia's identity, a lens for diversity, equity, and inclusion in their decision making, and experience that will lend itself to the responsibility of overseeing the management of the Office of Arts and Culture, Mural Arts, the Philadelphia Film Office, and the Office of Special Events. I will work closely and transparently with key stakeholders and experts within Philadelphia's arts and cultural institutions to promote the position opening, identify and recruit a diverse, highly-qualified pool of applicants, and make sure that recommendations and input from these stakeholders and experts are heard before an appointment is made.

3. **Support for The Philadelphia Cultural Fund** - How do you stand on support for the Philadelphia Cultural Fund (PCF)? Would you maintain the current PCF budget or increase it? Explain your answer fully and focus especially on funding. (PCF is an independent 501 c 3 nonprofit established by the city in 1991 as the mechanism by which the city directly, consistently, and without political influence, supports the city's nonprofit arts sector and its community of artists.)

As Mayor, I would be a strong supporter of the Philadelphia Cultural Fund. I would convene with board members of the PCF to determine what level of increase in funding from the city to the PCF will be necessary for the PCF to fulfill its mission. I would also use my platform as mayor to advocate for our city's philanthropic sector to invest in the PCF. The PCF is a crucial resource for empowering our city's artists and cultural workers and I will

4. **New Initiatives** - How will your administration financially support the city's arts and culture sector? Are there initiatives that your administration would establish?

The Rynhart Administration will set creative economy goals and align our departments to meet those goals, including through funding where necessary. With these goals established, the Rynhart Administration will advocate for a charter change to establish the Department of Arts and Culture within our city's government structure. In addition, the Deputy Mayor of Arts and Culture will seek to weave the arts into all the city's departments using Mural Arts as the model.

A successful partnership was between Mural Arts and several departments, including the Department of Behavioral Health, Prisons, the Water Department, and the Department of Human Services. These partnerships range from facilitating creative outlets to connecting communities, healing from trauma and mental illness, to building skills through the arts. The Deputy Mayor of Arts and Culture will prioritize evaluating what makes these programs successful and developing a plan to expand these programs throughout our city departments.

In addition, the Rynhart Administration will ensure that arts and culture are part of life for every child and young person in our city. As Mayor, Rynhart will do all she can to ensure the school district commits to overcoming any barriers that historically prevent the arts from being present in every school. Further, Rynhart deeply believes that art has the power to not only beautify our built environment but also positively impact the lives of the people within. Young people deserve to attend beautiful schools. The Deputy Mayor of Arts and Culture will work directly with the Superintendent of school and his staff, as well as the Mayor's Office of Education, to provide arts and culture programming to all public schools. The arts are a crucial component of a vibrant, comprehensive education. We are in a city where hundreds of arts nonprofits provide invaluable support to children and teens. The Deputy Mayor will work with organizations across the city to develop a comprehensive plan to ensure the arts are pervasive in our kids' lives throughout the school day, after school, and in the summer.

5. **Artist participation** - Unlike in the past, today there is little or no representation of Philadelphia's arts community within the Office of Arts, Culture and Creative Economy to inform its work. What do you see as the value of such representation? What level of priority would it be to you to reestablish that representation?

In all aspects of civic life and policymaking, I believe it's crucial to bring the perspectives of individuals directly impacted by policy to the decision-making table and that includes members of the arts community with regard to Philadelphia's arts & cultural policy. For that reason, it would be a key priority for my administration's arts agenda to convene and include these individuals to make sure that our city's arts & cultural sector can meet its full potential.

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