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The Mission of the St Lucie Cultural Alliance is to better position the arts and cultural sector as a significant contributor to the vibrancy, education and economic wellbeing of St Lucie County



2018 Candidate Questionnaire – Arts & Cultural Impact

Dear Candidate:

An informed, engaged citizenry is the lifeblood of our nation's heritage and future. As the Board of Directors for St. Lucie Cultural Alliance (SLCA), we applaud your decision to seek elected office.

We are interested in your views on Arts & Culture and the economic impact and quality of life value they bring to our community and look forward to sharing your perspective on Arts & Culture with our colleagues, voters, and patrons of the arts in St. Lucie and beyond. We the Board and Leadership of St. Lucie Cultural Alliance appreciate your time and consideration in answering these important questions.

Thank you.

CANDIDATE (your name): Sean Mitchell

ELECTED OFFICE YOU SEEK: St. Lucie County Commissioner District 2

Q1: ARTS AND CULTURAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO ECONOMIC VITALITY

The arts and cultural sector leverages both private and public funding to contribute to economic development for St Lucie County.

How do you view public investment in the Arts & Cultural sector as it contributes to the economic vitality of St. Lucie?

The arts and culture are one of the most financially beneficial **RESPONSE:** that a county can invest in. Communities deserve to have diverse opportunities to take in the arts. Some leaders don't consider the arts as essential to economic vitality. But I believe the opposite to be true. The arts attract both visitors and business to St. Lucie to invest their time and dollars.

Q2: ATTRACTING THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST FOR ST. LUCIE

St. Lucie County's diverse arts and cultural activities complement Treasure Coast initiatives to attract and retain new talent and businesses, making our county an interesting and desirable location that supports both professional development and personal/family enjoyment and entertainment.

As an elected official, how would you work to make Arts & Culture a part of your economic development policies?

As your Commissioner, I will advocate for arts and culture to **RESPONSE:** ensure that they are always part of the vision for the future of our county. By tracking the economic impact of arts and culture in St. Lucie, we will be able to show our citizens how important these are to sustaining growth St. Lucie. I will support policies that grow arts and culture, and aim to provide resources to give them as much support as possible.

Q3: EDUCATIONAL IMPACTS AND ARTS INTEGRATIONS

There is a broad scope of education programs (including STEM/STEAM focuses) initiated and managed by the arts and cultural community in support of St. Lucie County students and teachers.

How would you describe the significance of art education programs and how would you support the continuation and growth of similar educational contributions within St. Lucie?

RESPONSE: Arts education is an area that is extremely important to me and my family. My son Patrick was the recipient of a full scholarship at Indian River State College to study Theatre and Music. I have seen firsthand the power of arts education in creating helping students understanding more about the world around them and how to communicate and innovate in any subject. I pledge my support of our wonderful schools in St. Lucie County and any organization that is part of that important work.

Q4: ENHANCING TOURISM AND CULTURAL DESTINATION

Arts and cultural programs promote the County's reputation as a destination attracting tourists as well as providing affordable creative and entertainment opportunities for our residents.

Do you support public investment for Arts & Cultural initiatives to further develop St. Lucie County as a cultural destination?

RESPONSE: I absolutely support a solid and sustainable investment for arts and culture in St. Lucie County. As I have mentioned before, investment in arts and culture goes beyond the gallery or stage. These endeavors raise the value and appeal of the entire community. Our county is in a unique position to offer the very best of what Florida has to offer. Our natural resources, our businesses, our education systems, and the arts only serves to create new possibilities in making St. Lucie a major cultural destination while maintaining our rich history. We have the ability to make St. Lucie a premiere location to explore arts and culture. We should all be behind that effort.

Q5: PERSONAL/PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

This is your opportunity to describe both your personal engagement with Arts & Cultural programs as a private citizen and to describe your prior work to support Arts & Culture through the public leadership roles (elected or other) which you have held. *(For candidates who currently serve or have served in elected office, please include in your response specifics concerning your support for Arts & Culture.)*

How have you supported Arts & Culture in St. Lucie County through your work in public office and/or as a private citizen?

RESPONSE: I have always been an advocate for the arts. So many of the promising students and skilled craftsmen I have mentored, embody the spirit of innovation. I've stated throughout my campaign that one of the key factors that businesses More and more companies are looking for these rare creative minds that can help solve the problem of the future. The arts are a pathway to those unique skills. My motto is 'people over politics', and nothing speaks to the heart and soul of people like the arts.