



Do you care about the future of the arts in the UK?

If you do, make sure the candidate you vote for in the 2017 General Election is committed to the arts. The UK is a world leader in arts and culture. Despite significant challenges, the arts are doing well here; more and more people enjoy the best in performing and visual arts. If you want this success to continue for future generations, here are three questions to ask your candidate.

GENERAL ELECTION 2017: IS YOUR CANDIDATE FOR THE ARTS?

1 What will you do to protect arts funding?

Government funding of the arts is really important. It keeps entry prices down, it makes great art available to communities up and down the land, not just the biggest cities, and enables artists to take risks and innovate, which leads to more exciting and profitable work.

- **More than two-thirds of all adults in England attend an arts event every year¹**
- **'Creative, Arts and Entertainment' is one of the fastest growing sectors of the UK economy²**

If your candidate wants to protect the arts for future generations, they should make the following commitments:

Oppose any further cuts in core arts funding* and **support** more money from the Treasury if Lottery receipts keep falling

Support initiatives that help local government invest in arts and culture in their area

Support tax relief schemes for theatre productions, orchestras, etc.

2 How will you make good arts education available to everyone?

Everyone should have the chance to develop their creative talent. From Early Years to Higher Education, creative subjects are essential for all students, not just those who can afford it. Creative skills are needed in the UK economy; creativity will be key to our future economic success.

- **Participation in structured arts activities can increase cognitive abilities by 17%³**
- **Between 2010, when the EBacc was introduced, and 2016 entries to arts GCSEs fell by 21%³**

If your candidate wants to help everyone develop their creative potential, they should make the following commitments:

Support finding room in the Primary Curriculum (Key Stage 1 & 2) for more creative and arts activities

Oppose further cuts in schools' budgets that would affect 'enrichment', including trips to theatres, museums and galleries

Oppose plans for the new English Baccalaureate or 'EBacc' that excludes creative, artistic and technical subjects

3 What will you do to ensure everyone has access to the best art, no matter where they live?

We believe affordable access to art is an essential part of being human. In the UK, many people have access to a wide range of well-funded, high quality performing and visual arts. Many do not.

- **People who take part in the arts are 38% more likely to report good health³**

If your candidate understands the issues around arts provision in the UK and they want to ensure everyone has access to the highest quality art, they should make the following commitments:

Support the end of the 'postcode lottery' of arts funding and make sure all families have access to high quality art wherever they live

Support and advocate for the artistic jewels in your community. If you have no artistic jewels, what would your candidate do to create them?

If you or your candidate want to know more about the importance of the arts and arts funding in UK, visit our website, forthearts.org.uk, and sign up to our newsletter.

* = Decisions on levels of national arts funding are devolved to the four UK nations. Decisions on Lottery distribution, tax incentives and Gift Aid are currently all made by the UK Government in Westminster.
Sources : 1 - DCMS Taking Part Survey, 2 - Annual Business Survey, 3 - Cultural Learning Alliance