

BCT Candidate Questionnaire
Stephen Murphy

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1. *What role do you see the arts playing in Berkeley's future? What specific policies or directives should the City Council champion to make this happen?*

Berkeley is experiencing a huge amount of change right now. Across the city, new large buildings are appearing rapidly and Berkeley residents and policy makers are discussing ways to improve the city and address the most pressing issues, including affordability, low housing supply, homelessness, and public safety. Art has a huge role to play in all of this change, and we can use it to make our city's future beautiful, soulful, and carefully considered. The 1% for Art program, which I helped implement as the Chair of the Planning Commission, is an excellent start. The program will allow artists to partner with developers to create public art at new building projects across the city. As we continue to ponder Berkeley's future, more opportunities will come. The Adeline Corridor project, for example, offers the opportunity to think about art in public spaces and urban planning. As a City Council Member, I will work to make sure art is incorporated in as many building and urban planning projects as possible.

2. *Recently, Berkeley citizens came together and worked with the City Council to win our first increase in funding to the Civic Arts Grant Program in 14 years. Knowing how important the arts are as an economic driver and community building block, what concrete ideas do you have to create a sustainable and progressive income stream to support our growing, vibrant, and diverse arts ecosystem in the years to come?*

As I wrote above, I helped lead the charge for the 1% for Art project. I'm proud that it was finally codified recently, and I'm excited to see the results around the city. The program mandates developers of large new developments in commercial districts to incorporate an art piece worth 1% of construction costs or pay an in-lieu fee to the Cultural Trust Fund. The program means that local artists will have the chance to make their mark across the city, and that our public spaces will be as compelling as possible. The program will create new buildings that people love to come to, which will drive economic growth and a stronger sense of community. The in-lieu fees for the Cultural Trust Fund also offer an incredible opportunity to increase artists' presence around the city. The funds can be used to finance more projects for public and community spaces.

3. *Affordable housing is clearly a big issue across the whole Bay Area. Working artists increasingly struggle to find a place to live in our competitive rent market. Please explain how you would address this problem.*

Artists are assets for our community. We must prioritize creating more affordable housing so that we don't continue to lose the residents who are such an important part of Berkeley's culture. As the Associate Director of the Alameda County Family Justice Center I have seen firsthand how difficult it is for low-income families to find affordable housing in Berkeley. I support developments of affordable housing and believe the City of Berkeley should encourage such

developments. We need more projects like Harper Crossing, which recently broke ground on Martin Luther King Jr.. As a middle- class professional with a family, I also recognize the need for housing that is affordable for people who don't qualify for deeply affordable housing (<30% of AMI). I believe in development of housing that is available to a diverse population, especially the middle class. One way to do that is with an inclusionary housing requirement for new development. I support the recently passed a new requirement that 20% of new units be affordable. I also support in-lieu fees that go into the Housing Trust Fund, which we can use to build more affordable housing.

4. *What other issues concerning the arts community would you like to address? How might the arts community collaborate with the city to address the challenges and opportunities of the 21st Century?*

Art must be an integral part of creating a bright future for Berkeley. Currently our residents are grappling with the realities of growing wealth inequalities, diminishing affordability, and arguments about how our public spaces should look and feel. These conversations are important and they require a wide range of connected solutions: we need more housing, better affordability, better resources for the low-income and homeless, and better designed streets and public spaces. I believe that art offers an important way to make those connections, and artists can help identify them. They can think of ways to make public spaces that are beautiful and compelling for a diverse population; they can help create denser housing while maintaining walkable, pedestrian-oriented streets; and, perhaps most importantly, they can help us think about how the city's aesthetics affect our collective state of mind and sense of community. As a City Council Member, it will be my job to facilitate the opportunities to bring artists into the conversation as often as possible.