



Jodi Merriday

<p>What is your personal background and experience in the arts?</p>	<p>I have an arts practice (theatre, dance, music, visual arts, film, etc.), I am a supporter of arts and culture through donations., I am a regular participant as an arts patron., I participate in arts programming through my place of worship, community center, or other community-based group., I am the parent of an artist (youth to adult).</p>
<p>What arts activities have you attended, participated in, or supported in the last few years (preCOVID to the present)?</p>	<p>Dance, Music, Theatre, Literary Arts (including book festivals or book clubs), Film (including film festivals), Visual Arts</p>
<p>What percentage of the Georgia economy revenue is made up of art and art related activities?</p>	<p>4.60%</p>
<p>The total economic impact of arts-related activities (pre-Covid-19) in the Atlanta region represents...</p>	<p>Over \$700 Million</p>
<p>The Atlanta region lost a net of __ arts and entertainment related jobs from 2019 to 2020.</p>	<p>24,000</p>
<p>Do you have an Arts Platform for Atlanta?</p>	<p>Yes My vision for Atlanta is that we put people first in safe neighborhoods, schools, and streets with robust business expansion, jobs, interconnected transit, and a vibrant arts and entertainment culture.</p>
<p>Please share your thoughts on the creation of an arts district in the city of Atlanta that would support affordable studios, affordable rehearsal space, affordable housing, and affordable presentation space (theatre, blackbox, gallery, meeting space, etc.).</p>	<p>I wholeheartedly support the creation of an arts district in the city of Atlanta to provide affordable studios, rehearsal spaces, housing, and presentation spaces (theatre, blackbox, gallery, meeting space, etc.). I believe that the city should partner with philanthropy and the private sector to fund and actualize this vision.</p>

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<p>Please share your thoughts on providing relief funds from the American Relief Funds Act (ARPA) to arts organizations and artists to recover, rebuild, and restore Atlanta's creative economy.</p>	<p>It is critical that relief funds are provided from the ARF Act to arts organizations and artists to recover, rebuild, and restore Atlanta's creative economy. Moreover, I will champion doubling budget appropriations in Departments that support this effort including the Office of Cultural Affairs and The Office of Film and Entertainment. I truly believe that the City of Atlanta in partnership with philanthropy and the private sector should have a 20 million dollar budgetary allowance. Atlanta's brand nationally and globally has been amplified by influential musicians, artists, producers, writers and creative industry professionals. We owe them a great debt that we must pay forward. Their recovery, rebuilding, and restoration will be at the heart of how the soul of our city moves forward.</p>
<p>What is your vision for the arts in Atlanta, a major airport hub, film hub, and economic engine of the Southeast? (What does it look like, feel like, sound like? Who are the people? There is no wrong answer.)</p>	<p>Our sister cities have evidenced to Atlanta how vital an Arts District and vibrant culture can be. My vision for the arts starts with embedding arts programming in Atlanta Public Schools and the extracurricular activities provided in @Promise and Parks and Recreation Centers throughout the City. Next, I believe the Colleges and Universities can continue the cultivation and development of creatives and technicians to feed the emerging economy. Creative students and technicians should be provided with opportunities to present their works, be mentored, and funded.</p> <p>I further envision that facilities owned by the City of Atlanta would be accessible as a conduit for presenting and cultivating bodies of work. I am particularly passionate about equity. All communities should have access, be represented, and feel a sense of belonging.</p> <p>Lastly, our cultural calendar should be the toast of the South with festivals, exhibitions, releases, performances, ceremonies, etc. This calendar should be partnered with our conventions and visitors bureau to energize Atlantans, illuminate our city, and attract revenue. Moreover, associated costs should be varied to enable citywide participation and patronage (i.e. exclusive, scales pricing, subsidized, and FREE).</p> <p>My vision feels like a diverse and widely varied, inclusive creative culture that bustles, ignites, and elevates our city.</p>

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Is there any other information you would like voters to know?

I identify my artistic canvas as jazz, cultural canvas as diplomacy and aspire to create bodies of work and dialogue that provoke consciousness, critical thought and social cohesion. My most notable skills include the capacity to encapsulate performance art as a tool to bridge understanding, unpack difference, increase cultural competency and facilitate dialogue. I have over 25 years of experience working in higher education.

During my 7-year tenure as a Lecturer at Spelman College in the Departments of Music, Sociology and African Diaspora, I taught Africans in the Diaspora and World, American Popular Music, African-American Film, Intro to Sociology, Social Problems, Hip Hop HERStory and Dialogue across Difference. I was also an Adjunct Lecturer at Georgia State University where I taught African Diaspora), Clark Atlanta University where I taught USA Africa World and African/ African-American Music, The Art Institute of Philadelphia where I taught Intro to Sociology, and Community College of Philadelphia where I taught Intro to Sociology and Culture and Thinking).

My first independently released cd, "Sundance" was asserted by jazz and poetry enthusiasts to be, "one of the most innovative projects of the new millennium". Recent notable performances include: The Atlanta Jazz Festival's 40 Days of Jazz, Northlake College's commemoration of African-American and Women's History Month, Southern Illinois University's "Black Women in American History and Culture;" and The National Black Arts Festival's "Interpretations: Black Visual Art Past, Present and Future. I have received awards and distinctions for my creative body of work and aspire to make artistic and academic contributions until my days end.

I am keenly aware of the power of creative industries and the importance of artist to the tapestry of humanity. I will be an ally, advocate, and passionate champion of Atlanta's Arts Districts, creative industries, and culture. Lights - camera - action, ... let's go!