



115 Pine Avenue STE 350
Long Beach CA 90802



Suely Saro
Candidate for Long Beach City Council
District 6

- Q. The creative economy encompasses people with creative occupations working in the creative industries, as well as workers with creative occupations working in any other industry, and people in a non-creative job working in a creative industry. What would you do to deepen the City's investment in its creative economy?
- A. One of my top priorities is to enhance economic development and opportunities and that includes the creative industry. The creative industry is crucial to helping the City of Long Beach enhance its economy and community engagement through programs and work that build a positive identity in the City of Long Beach. When I talk about increasing public and private investments, I will intentionally include the creative industry in the discussion and at the table. It is also important to expand workforce development in the creative industry that also overlap or intersect with other industries such as communications and media. Often times, creative work is not valued in the form of investments. I want to re-enforce and strengthen the narrative that the creative industry must be valued, and that value should be in the form investments.



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- Q. 2. How would you champion expansion of the City's current funding stream for local arts and culture?
- A. I would be a champion expanding the city's current funding stream for local arts and culture by strategizing and working with the Arts Council to do that.
- Q. Ballot Measure B would increase the City's "hotel room tax" by 1% to support arts education in Long Beach schools; provide resources for Long Beach arts and cultural institutions; and pay for critical repairs and upgrades to the Convention Center. What are your views on this measure?
- A. I support this measure as I believe this is one source of stable funding stream for local arts and culture.
- Q. How can the City increase representation, diversity and access to the arts for all?
- A. I think the Arts Council of Long Beach is doing a great job to increasing representation, diversity, and access to the arts for all. To make it better, I think it is important to strengthen alliances and partnerships between District 6 schools, community institutions, arts organizations, residents, neighborhood associations, and businesses throughout Long Beach. One idea would be to have a City Council member appoint an Arts Council for Long Beach District representative that can serve as a liaison with neighborhoods, businesses, cities, and residents to share Arts Council information, resources, and opportunities. As



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well as sharing people's needs, challenges, and ideas back to the Arts council. This can ensure that the voices of people living in the district are heard and that information and opportunities for partnership can be explored with them so that there is an intentional process to continue to increase representation, diversity, and access for all.

Q. Which art initiatives in your district do you find successful and how would you support these programs in the future?

A. I think the mural and utility box art program are great initiatives. I would like to continue that to ensure we find opportunities to enhance the business corridors and neighborhoods with these visual art initiatives. I would really like to celebrate the history of District 6 through visual art, photography and writing exhibitions. And I would also like to help strengthen performance arts and continue arts education to help activate corridors and neighborhoods by doing pop-up concerts and pop-up art classes or dance classes in partnerships with residents and businesses in local areas throughout the 6th district.

Other ideas that I have that may not be new is to develop and or support annual festivals and programs showcasing the talents of local community members and school groups, meanwhile using food and music to draw the community together.