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**COMPLETE**

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Page 1

**Q1 Name**

Sima Sarrafan

**Q2 Email Address**

sima@simasarrafan.com

**Q3** Want us to tag you on social media? Please share your @

No thank you.

**Q4** Which of these arts did you have as part of your own K-12 education?

**Dance,**  
**Music,**  
**Theatre,**  
**Visual Arts**

**Q5** How did learning in the arts impact your education and life after high school?

I studied violin throughout middle school (Odle) and high school (Interlake); I was in orchestra in middle school and youth symphony in high school. I continued through college, even when I was overseas, playing in my college orchestra and in a chamber group in Europe. Music and the arts more broadly changed how I interpret the world and give me a dimension I wouldn't have otherwise had. I've encouraged my children and others to go broader and capture more artistic experiences as young as possible. I don't see the arts as an extra or a bonus; I consider it an essential sensory and emotional experience that makes us all more human. I believe it's hard to be a fully creative thinker without having arts in one's development as a person.

**Q6** How would you describe the current status of arts education for Elementary students in your district? (The arts are a core subject in our state definition of basic education and in federal law.)

Dance	<b>Available</b>
Media Arts	<b>Available</b>
Music	<b>Robust</b>
Theatre	<b>Robust</b>
Visual Arts	<b>Robust</b>

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**Q7** How would you describe the current status of arts education for Middle School students in your district?

Dance	<b>Available</b>
Media Arts	<b>Available</b>
Music	<b>Robust</b>
Theatre	<b>Robust</b>
Visual Arts	<b>Robust</b>

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**Q8** How would you describe the current status of arts education for High School students in your district? (Two arts credits are required for graduation.)

Dance	<b>Available</b>
Media Arts	<b>Available</b>
Music	<b>Robust</b>
Theatre	<b>Robust</b>
Visual Arts	<b>Robust</b>

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**Q9** Research has shown that arts education increases student engagement, helps close opportunity gaps, and reduces dropout rates, yet a recent study in King County shows that race and income are barriers to access to the arts. How do you see yourself addressing fair access in your district?

We have and will continue to support fair access by being intentional and reviewing everything we do through a lens of equity, to ensure that there is no activity for which there is a fee or other cost-based barrier that we assume is so low as to not be an impediment. Additionally, I believe it's important to showcase and embrace the arts from multiple cultures so that our students see the relevance of their own histories and life stories in the arts.

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**Q10** If elected, which of these strategies would you consider to support arts education in your district?

**Research current arts program and assess needs at district buildings**

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**Work for a budget to financially support arts instruction at all schools**

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**Support professional development for classroom teachers**

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**Develop or update a district level arts plan.**

**Support arts inclusion professional development opportunities**

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**Support cultural access legislation**

Other (please specify):

I would consider any of the items above, but I checked the ones on which I'm the most clear/certain. One of the things that I did last year that I will endeavor to do again is to attend all the high school drama productions and poetry "open mics" at our district's high schools. I did this last year and was overwhelmed both with joy and a sense of hope for our future. I saw two different high schools perform Mamma Mia, one perform Cinderella, at an open mic, I heard beautiful poetry written by impassioned students demanding a better world, I saw a wonderful adaptation of Tartuffe, and a hilarious rendering of a Law and Order skit. I learned a great deal from this experience, both in terms of what we do well and in terms of where we can do more.

**Q11** If elected, would you like Arts, Culture & Education updates from ArtsEd Washington?

**No, but please send me the studies referenced in the survey**