

# **Christian Menefee | District 18**

## **1. How do you personally participate in the arts and culture both in Houston and when you travel?**

For me, the arts are one of the most powerful ways to connect with people and understand the world around us. Whether it's through music, theater, or visual art, creativity offers a way to explore ideas and experiences that goes beyond everyday politics. Art can make bold statements about justice, hope, and identity, but it can also offer peace and reflection, a retreat from all the noise of daily life and public debate.

In Houston, I try to stay connected to our incredible arts community by attending local performances, exhibits, and cultural festivals that celebrate the city's diversity. My wife and I also love incorporating the arts into our date nights whenever we get the chance as a way to unwind and share in something inspiring together.

## **2. Would you support restoring full funding to National Public Radio and PBS?**

Absolutely. Whether it's covering important news stories that keep our communities informed or producing educational programming like Sesame Street that generations of Americans have grown up with, NPR and PBS play an essential role in our society. It's a shame that their funding has been cut, because these public institutions provide trusted, high-quality content that reaches every corner of the country. I would fully support restoring their funding to previous levels so they can continue serving the public good.

## **3. Would you be willing to support a request for appropriations directly to the county or the City specifically for arts? Each congress person can submit requests for their district every year.**

Yes, I would be proud to support appropriations requests directly to Harris County or the City of Houston for arts and cultural initiatives. The 18th Congressional District is home to some of the most important cultural institutions in the country, including the Houston Theater District, which anchors a thriving creative economy. Supporting the

arts isn't just about enriching our cultural life, it also means supporting good-paying jobs, small businesses, and tourism that strengthen our local economy. Federal investment in the arts provides a direct benefit to our city and our residents, and I would work to ensure Houston gets its fair share of that support.

**4. Would you support continued funding at the 2024 level or higher for the National Endowment to the Arts?**

Yes, I'd absolutely support funding the National Endowment for the Arts at the 2024 level or higher. Supporting the NEA is just common sense, it's an investment in who we are and who we want to be. These investments support local artists, create jobs, and help tell the stories that make our country what it is.

**5. How would you support arts in Congressional District 18?**

I'd work to make sure the arts in District 18 get the recognition and resources they deserve. This district is home to some of the most vibrant cultural institutions in the country from the Houston Theater District to our incredible local galleries, musicians, and community arts programs. I'd fight to bring federal dollars directly into our community through arts appropriations and grant opportunities, so those institutions and local artists can continue to grow and thrive.

Beyond funding, I'd use my platform to highlight the arts as essential to who we are as Houstonians. The arts create jobs, attract tourism, and give young people creative outlets that strengthen our neighborhoods. Supporting the arts is part of building a strong, connected, and forward-looking Houston.