

ABOUT YOU

Please provide your name as it will appear on the ballot: Angelo "AJ" Pasciuti

What office are you seeking? San José City Council District 6

Are you an incumbent in this office? No

Do you now or have you ever held elected office(s)? *If so, please list title(s), jurisdiction(s), and years in each office:* No

Where's your hometown? San Jose/Sunnyvale

What is your current city of residence? San Jose

What is your highest level of education? Master of Business - University of SoCal, Current student
University of SanFran MA Public Leadership

What is your current primary vocation/occupation? Retired Marine Officer/Full-time
Candidate/Substitute Teacher

Do you have an arts background of any kind? *If so, please explain.*

My upbringing was deeply influenced by the artistic world, thanks to my mother, Jerilyn Lightfoot (SJ Sate BA Fine Art 1980), a talented plein air pastel and oil painter. Her ownership of "Pantheon Fine Arts and Framing" in Sunnyvale, where we also lived, exposed me to the vibrant Bay Area art scene from a young age. Growing up in an art studio environment, I had the privilege of meeting various artists and participating in art events, exhibits, workshops, and art and wine festivals. These formative experiences instilled in me a profound understanding of the power of art. My mother's passion for art revealed that creativity and expression transcend monetary value in a society often fixated on financial success and material wealth. Art offered a window into people's souls and provided unique avenues to express a culture's essence or a community's emotions. The art and framing studio on Murphy Ave. wasn't just a business; it was a hub for collaboration and expression at the heart of Silicon Valley. While I didn't inherit my mother's graphic artistry, I discovered my own artistic outlet during high school through the performing arts. At Fremont High School, I embraced acting, becoming an active member of our thespian troupe. I eagerly participated in numerous plays, musicals, choir performances, and improv comedy shows, nurturing dreams of a career in the performing arts. However, the events of 9/11 compelled me to set aside my artistic aspirations and embark on a different path of service.

ABOUT YOUR CAMPAIGN

Please share your candidate statement as it will appear in voting materials. (approx. 200 words)

Following the events of 9/11, I joined the Marine Corps at the age of 17. For over two decades, I developed my leadership and collaboration skills while serving our country. With an eye toward the future, I re-invented Marine Corps curriculum to instill confidence and creative thinking, paving the way for the next generation of leaders while simultaneously attending night school and earning my MBA from USC.

I am compelled to continue my service after retiring from the Marines and coming home. As your advocate, I pledge to cultivate a collaborative and transparent decision-making process while ensuring our tax dollars count toward sensible solutions. I will prioritize cost-effective housing solutions for the unhoused, hiring more public safety officers and mental health professionals, and developing housing along transit corridors to curb costs without increasing traffic congestion.

I have consistently demonstrated a commitment to results earned through hard work and determination while leading multi-national teams in high-pressure situations. As a leader, I value unity, honor, empathy, and respect.

-We are in charge of our own story.

Eagle Scout, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal
Endorsed by Senator Dave Cortese www.electangelo.com

What is your campaign budget? \$60,000

How much have you raised to date? *Please specify if you have loaned or contributed any personal funds to your campaign and how much.* \$40,000 (\$5,000 of my personal funds)

How many doors have you personally knocked to date? 8,500

ABOUT THE ARTS

What is your perception of the current state of arts and culture in San José? (250 words)

San Jose has made remarkable strides in recent years in bolstering a diverse array of projects and initiatives. I find particular inspiration in continued engagement with artists who prioritize diverse voices and experiences and ensuring that every new capital infrastructure project allocates dedicated funding for local art. While visual art undoubtedly plays a vital role, it's just one facet of a broader mission.

Investing in the performing arts, whether through parades, programs at the Children's Discovery Museum, or other avenues, remains crucial. These efforts amplify our city's diverse cultures and enrich the perspectives of our residents. While the City has support programs for local artists through grants and entrepreneurship programs, more investment in student art and student involvement in projects would help build cultural and artistic appreciation in future generations.

We must continue to focus on our commitment to art along public pathways, notably the Guadalupe River Trail. Sustained maintenance is essential for preserving the vibrancy of our city and ensuring that art continues to be an integral part of our urban landscape.

How would you define the role of arts and culture in San José's economy? (250 words)

It is incumbent upon the city to fulfill its fiscal duty by actively promoting, supporting, and magnifying diverse voices through substantial investments in public art, spanning both visual and performing genres. The integration of art across the city enhances its vibrancy. It serves as a magnet, drawing in residents and visitors from beyond our borders and stimulating participation in our local economy. As the saying goes, beauty begets beauty; hence, increased investment in our artistic ventures throughout the city will cultivate a profound sense of pride within our community, benefiting the city and our local

businesses. San José can again be the leader of our valley; if we champion policies together, we can solve regional problems by starting in our own backyard.

Were you familiar with SJAA before receiving this survey? Yes

If yes to the above, are you familiar with our current [policy priorities](#)? Yes

ABOUT OUR PRIORITIES

The following questions are directly related to SJAA's policy priorities. Your direct responses are appreciated!

Would you support a policy requiring large private developments to contribute funding and/or space and other resources to public arts and cultural programs in San José — similar to existing policies in Bay Area cities like Sunnyvale and Berkeley? Why or why not? You can read an overview of SJAA's policy proposal [here](#).

Yes, I am in favor of a PPA policy. The city currently mandates that a percentage of funds from public capital projects be set aside for art installations within those projects. Extending this requirement to private entities aligns with our existing policy framework. Encouraging developers and businesses to engage with our art community actively fosters a deeper sense of pride and civic responsibility and offers flexibility to these developments. Services and amenities dedicated to artistic endeavors can be seamlessly incorporated into their projects at a modest expense.

Would you support reallocating the current 40% General Fund set aside from the Transient Occupancy Tax (aka TOT or Hotel Tax) to arts, culture, and tourism programs? Why or why not?

I am open to reconsidering the allocation of the TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax). It's crucial to recognize that the upcoming fiscal year might present more significant challenges than previous ones, which could constrain the City's capacity to distribute funds broadly.

Would you support the creation of positions within city departments for artists in residence to coordinate with staff on community engagement and strategic planning — as other municipalities like [Los Angeles County](#) are already doing? Why or why not?

I would support exploring a pilot program in one or two departments for an artist in residence. This would bring cultural awareness and appreciation not only to the public but also to our public service employees who are serving our city and residents. Similar to my answer above, as we are going into a tighter fiscal year than years past, a small-scale pilot program would be a great starting point, depending on the costs.

OPEN FORUM

What are some other ideas you have for increasing City support for arts and culture?

From a young age, I witnessed my mother's advocacy for art inclusion within city government, and this experience has given me a profound understanding of the challenges artists often confront. I genuinely appreciate the role of art in enriching every aspect of our culture. Regardless of any decision regarding the endorsement, I want to emphasize my unwavering commitment to seeking the counsel and input of artists within our community.

What do you wish we had asked but didn't?