

ABOUT YOU

Please provide your name as it will appear on the ballot: Tam Truong

What office are you seeking? San Jose City Council District 8

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? I was born in Vietnam, but I was raised and grew up in San Jose

What is your current city of residence? San Jose, CA

What is your highest level of education? Master of Business Administration

What is your current primary vocation/occupation? San Jose Police Sergeant

Do you have an arts background of any kind? If so, please explain. While I don't have a formal arts background, I appreciate and support various forms of art.

ABOUT YOUR CAMPAIGN

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

My priorities 1) Improving Public Safety Response 2) Building Affordable Housing for Families 3) Transitioning our Unhoused Neighbors to Shelter.

I've worked 20 years in law enforcement with 15 years at the San Jose Police Department including a Community Liaison in the Chief's Office and a Sergeant with responsibilities covering City Council District 8. Community policing develops relationships with youth, residents, families, small business owners, houses of worship and city leaders.

I'll use my experiences building relationships to involve stakeholders when policy decisions are made in City Hall. As a police officer I know first-hand the challenges our SJPD faces in recruiting new officers, keeping our city safe and improving relationships with the community.

San Jose must bring together developers and housing advocates to build affordable housing for families. I was homeless as a child and know how it feels. Our unhoused neighbors need services and a pathway to housing. We need to upgrade our infrastructure and meet climate change threats.

Together we can make San Jose Work For You.

I would be honored to earn your Vote—Tam Truong for City Council.

Contact me: 408-800-4789, vote@TamSJ.com, www.TamSJ.com.

What is your campaign budget? \$250,000

How much have you raised to date? *Please specify if you have loaned or contributed any personal funds to your campaign and how much.* \$150,000 - No loans

How many doors have you personally knocked to date? Around 13,000

ABOUT THE ARTS

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

San Jose has been evolving into a vibrant hub for arts and culture. The city's cultural landscape is enriched by a blend of traditional influences and contemporary expressions, reflecting its diverse population and historical roots. Institutions like the San Jose Museum of Art and the Mexican Heritage Plaza celebrate artistic diversity, while events such as the San Jose Jazz Festival and numerous local galleries and street murals showcase a wide array of creative talents. Overall, San Jose's cultural richness continues to grow, offering a dynamic and evolving environment for both residents and visitors to explore and enjoy.

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

The role of arts and culture in San Jose's economy is integral and diverse. Arts and cultural activities contribute significantly by stimulating economic growth through expenditures on events, performances, and exhibitions. This spending includes ticket sales, purchases of related merchandise, dining, and accommodation, benefiting local businesses.

Moreover, the arts sector in San Jose generates employment opportunities across various fields, such as artists, performers, administrators, technicians, marketers, and venue staff. These jobs provide livelihoods and support local households.

Ultimately, arts and culture in San Jose not only enrich the city's identity and quality of life but also play a crucial role in driving economic growth, tourism, community development, and innovation. Supporting and investing in this sector can lead to a more vibrant and resilient local economy.

Were you familiar with SJAA before receiving this survey? No

If yes to the above, [are you familiar with our current policy priorities?](#) No

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?

Before creating a requirement, I would like to see the city work harder to help find incentives for private developments to partner with local artists, non-profits, students and other community groups to find creative ways to collaborate on local arts projects.

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?

The specifics would matter here, but in general I would support that. San Jose residents deserve to benefit from the boost to our local economy that comes from our arts, culture and tourism programs, and reinvesting dollars back into those programs is one of the best, most direct ways to do that.

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?

It would depend on the specifics, but in general I would first like to find more opportunities for the city to incentivize partnership with local artists, musicians, non-profits, students and other community organizations to work on community engagement and strategic planning.

OPEN FORUM

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

No response

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