

Talking Points – Opposing the merger of the Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs with the Library Department.

- The savings realized are not enough to justify the problems this would cause. Staff cuts and other reductions would save just as much.
- This October we will be opening the new facilities in the largest, most spectacular arts district in the country and we need the roll out to be the best it can be, and a credit to our City. The whole world will be watching. It is imperative that we have a strong, independent Office of Cultural Affairs to help with this effort.
- The City Council just voted to use \$50 million in tax payer funds to build a convention center hotel. If we are to be competitive with Chicago, New York, Atlanta, Houston, Miami, Las Vegas and Los Angeles, we need the arts to attract the tourists, conventions and conferences that will make that investment successful. Dallas does not have beaches, mountains, natural wonders or casinos. All we have to offer is a vibrant, diverse arts community. We must have an independent Office of Cultural Affairs to work with the Convention and Visitors Bureau to sell this City.
- Dallas would be the only one of the top ten cities in the United States without an independent Office of Cultural Affairs or independent Arts Council.

The City Manager's Office provided information regarding the plight of other major cities and their cost cutting remedies at the City Council Briefing on 6/17. Our closest competitor cities for convention business did NOT appear to be cutting their arts as part of their strategy to deal with their budget crisis. They plan to stay competitive and will use their arts and cultural assets to draw business to their own convention centers and hotels