



## ARTS & CULTURE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Please take a moment to answer the DACAC Arts & Culture Questionnaire for City Council Candidates. Be as thorough as possible as these responses will be shared not only with the general membership, but also with the public and posted in its entirety online at [DallasNeedstheArts.com](http://DallasNeedstheArts.com). Provide your answers in the space indicated; space will automatically adjust to accommodate your complete answers.

Please return these completed questionnaires to [dacac@artsdallas.org](mailto:dacac@artsdallas.org) by April 17, 2023. Thank you!

#DallasNeedstheArts #ArtsVoteDallas #TXArtsMatter

### YOU AND THE ARTS

*Give us a sense about your relationship with the arts.*

- *Is there an arts form you particularly enjoy? What is it?*
- *What talents and/or history do you have in the arts. Include any arts organizations or commissions have you supported as a member, volunteers, contributor or season ticket holder?*
- *What arts organizations or commissions have you supported as a Board member, volunteer, contribution or season ticket holder. Please list cultural groups and experiences, even if not in Dallas.*

My background and profession before becoming a Dallas City Councilmember was the culinary arts. I lived in New York City, a major hub for the arts, and I taught culinary arts as a teacher in Dallas ISD. Currently, I am chairman of the Quality of Life, Arts, and Culture Council Committee, a role that I have dedicated to promoting and nurturing the cultural significance of not only District 7, including South Dallas and Fair Park, but Dallas as a whole.

### ADVOCACY

The non-profit arts and culture sector plays a big role in the Dallas economy. The most recent study showed almost a \$1 billion economic impact, supporting 33,000 jobs, driving cultural tourism, attracting relocations and talent, boosting education outcomes, and improving the quality of life across Dallas. Given this wide impact, we hope our elected leaders will help advocate for this sector.

- *What role do you envision for yourself as an elected Dallas leader when it comes to the arts?*
- *Where will arts and culture fit within your priorities?*
- *Will you help ensure that arts and cultural issues continue to be included in the City's legislative agenda for Austin and Washington?*

In addition to serving as the Council Committee Chairman, nurturing the Dallas arts and creative communities remains one of my top priorities. I will absolutely continue to work hard and support all artists.

Through the recent passing of Proposition A, which I championed, we secured \$300 million alone for Dallas' Fair Park. These will bring much needed renovations and bring Fair Park's 200-year-old history into the 21st century for the entire community. This will bring more people and even bigger arts-focused events like concerts to the Music Hall and Band Shell and give the area more opportunity to host events outside of the State Fair like Dallas Summer Musicals.



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**2024 BOND PROGRAM**

The City of Dallas owns 19 cultural venues and centers. The needs inventory for maintenance and repairs on these facilities is projected to grow \$32M - from \$89M in 2017 to \$120M by 2024. Yet the bond office’s proposal is only for \$15M. It’s a cultural pot hole that is only getting bigger and bigger. These are venues that generate tax revenues, support jobs, and draw cultural tourism – IF you keep them maintained.

- *Do you feel cultural facilities should be a part of the 2024 Bond Programs?*
- *If not, how would you work to get the needs inventory reduced and heading in a positive direction?*
- *If so, would you work to ensure the 2024 Bond Program includes cultural facilities at a significant level?*

I 100% do believe the 2024 bond program should fund cultural facilities across Dallas and will work to make sure it happens. We know venues and the arts industry bring in crucial revenue to the city, employ thousands of people, and should continue to grow. With renovated and new facilities provides more opportunities for people to participate in the arts and gain new perspectives and experience new cultures like those offered by the South Dallas Cultural Center, I will do everything I can to ensure our cultural facilities are well-funded through the bond and well-maintained by reducing our needs inventory annually.

**ARTS FUNDING**

*To help achieve a more equitable distribution of cultural resources, the City now uses a hybrid mix of funding from both the General Fund and a growing portion of the Hotel Occupancy Tax (on track to reach 15% by 2027.) This mix allows for a wide range of programs, from arts education to exhibitions and performances, individual artists and arts organizations, and more.*

- *Would you work to continue this hybrid funding model and support the City’s support of the arts?*

Absolutely. I would support any hybrid of funding mechanisms that advance the Dallas arts community and will continue to be a champion through my chairmanship of the Quality of Life, Arts, and Culture Council Committee.

**ARTS IN YOUR DISTRICT**

- *Name three areas of your council district where you think arts and cultural programs and experiences are most needed and would be welcomed the most.*

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DALLAS AREA CULTURAL ADVOCACY COALITION

South Dallas to promote Black artists, Fair Park to continue to grow the revenue stream the State Fair and other events provide the city, and our Parks and Recreation facilities throughout the district.

*Please return completed questionnaire to [dacac@artsdallas.org](mailto:dacac@artsdallas.org) as soon as possible.*

*Join us for a Candidate Reception for all Mayoral and City Council Candidates at The Perot on 4/17 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM*