



## 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.

Being married to an architect, our family enjoys all types of art, from buildings to sculptures. My artistic preference is dance in all its forms, as I was a dancer for six years as a young adult. As past season ticket holders to the Broadway Series, my oldest son and I would attend performances not only to spend time with one another but also I believe it is important for our youth to experience the arts. We have attended many events in Dallas including Dallas Summer Musicals, Broadway Series, plays, local museums and around the country.

I am extremely proud of the resiliency our arts organizations and institutions displayed during the pandemic. Many of the same people who helped establish Arts Week when I worked in the mayor's office are still just as, if not more, devoted today to see the arts thrive in Dallas as they were then. One of the most memorable supporting moments I personally attended of late was the re-opening of the Bath House Cultural Center after its \$1M in renovations. I have continued to support from afar and stay in touch with friends who are deeply involved in the arts since. I want to continue serving this City and bringing more corporate partners to support the arts alongside community organizations like Big Thought and Junior Players.

### 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?*

I will absolutely continue to listen, work hard, and get results for Dallas' arts community and creative economy. We must continue elect and re-elect leaders who will support the arts consistently and not revert to cutting services and opportunities as we navigate potential budget constraints. This includes advocacy at the State and National levels, as well.

Arts and culture remain one of my top priorities as a member of the Dallas City Council under my quality-of-life pillar. I will continue to advocate for the arts community by helping restore the City's obligation to support the arts, especially the Bath House Cultural Center on White Rock Lake. I used my experience having worked for Mayor Mike Rawlings to build consensus among my Council colleagues, work with City staff, and advance the recently adopted Cultural Plan. I will continue to make sure arts and nonprofits that support the arts are able to partner with our schools, libraries, recreation centers, large and small venues, and community-based black boxes, theatres, and cultural centers, so that all of Dallas' neighborhoods can experience performances and a higher quality of life.

## **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?*

Our cultural facilities MUST be a part of the upcoming 2024 Bond Program. I will work together with Chair of the Quality of Life Committee to maximize the investment into Dallas' cultural venues and centers.

## **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 support any mix that advances the Dallas arts community. I will continue to be a champion for the arts community.

**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.*

I will keep the focus on equitable access to the arts by remaining in close contact with arts staff and advocates, working towards the goals of the Cultural Plan, sustaining and growing investments in the arts, and identifying underserved areas within District 9 that could benefit from additional arts programming. Whether it takes a high-level marketing plan in concert with VisitDallas or integrating smaller art venues like the Bath House into ongoing master planning at White Rock Lake, I am open to all innovative ideas that will bring more equitable access to the arts. I would like to find more areas to display public art, such as our Casa View, Hillside Village, and Casa Linda shopping centers and parks like Harry Stone, Cotillion and White Rock Lake.

*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*