

Dallas Area Cultural Advocacy Coalition  
Candidate Survey  
City of Dallas Elections 2017

Candidate Name/Address/Phone (please include your email address and your website address):

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What Elective office are you running for? Dallas City Council, District 6

Please attach a resume to this survey and return your completed survey to:

Dallas Area Cultural Advocacy Coalition  
3630 Harry Hines Blvd.,  
Dallas, TX 75219

Or fax to 214/522-9174 to the Attention of DACAC **Please return by April 12, 2017**  
You can download electronic copy: [www.dallasneedsthearts.com](http://www.dallasneedsthearts.com) and email it through the website

1. What Arts events or performances have you attended in the past year and what Arts organizations or commissions have you served as a Board Member, Volunteer, Contributor, or Season Ticket holder? Please list all cultural groups even if not in Dallas and how you participated.

As Councilmember District 6 and Mayor Pro Tem, I have made it a point to attend as many diverse arts and cultural events as possible, ranging from emerging arts organizations of color to established arts organizations. I am a member of several organizations, including the Oak Cliff Coalition for the Arts and have actively supported many of our smaller arts organizations. I have been on the Dallas City Council's Arts, Culture, and Libraries Committee where proudly currently serve as Chair.

2. The City of Dallas currently allocates more than twenty million dollars from the general fund to support City-owned arts facilities and also to directly fund programs for more than one hundred and fifty arts organizations throughout the City. Knowing that strong arts programs can improve the quality of life and neighborhoods, boost educational outcomes and be economic drivers and job creators, how would you propose to honor the City's obligations and also increase the investment the City of Dallas makes in the arts? How do you view the role of public funding from the City of Dallas in promoting participation in the arts among your constituents?



Over my last three terms on the Dallas City Council, I have advocated for increased funding from the General Fund and other public funding sources for increased funding for the arts. I believe that our arts and cultural organizations make a huge positive difference in the quality of life in our city. Furthermore, I believe that our cultural community's diverse cultural array of arts, including smaller organizations of color and individual artists, should be presented and reflected in our city. Dallas has the diversity of audiences who respect and support this diversity. I believe the City of Dallas must continue to fund the Office of Cultural Affairs in order to ensure that our citizens' support of and investment in the arts is reflected.

3. Corporate relocations to the Dallas area are highly desirable to grow our economy and add jobs. How would you integrate the arts into your strategy for attracting corporate relocations?

I believe that the arts are an important indicator of quality of life. As an elected public servant and leader in our community, I shall continue to work with City staff to tie economic development and vibrancy with the arts as an indicator of the great quality of arts and cultural organizations our city has to offer, especially as an attraction to corporations who are wishing to relocate to our great city.

4. How important is Cultural Tourism to the development of our economy and what is your strategy to increase cultural tourism for our City?

As a member of the Dallas City Council, I serve as the current Interim Chair of the Board of Directors of the Dallas Convention Visitors Bureau [DCVB]. The DCVB has created a Cultural Tourism Committee which has begun to work with our arts and cultural community leaders to enhance the role of Cultural Tourism in our City. I believe Cultural Tourism is essential to the growth of arts and cultural organizations.

5. How do you define Cultural Equity, is it a priority for you, and how would you help Dallas become a more culturally equitable city?

I would define Cultural Equity as the inclusion of all people being represented in all facets of the arts; this would include policy development, supporting and nurturing individual artists and venues for expression, and assuring the equitable distribution of resources.

This is a priority for me.

Yes, I would continue to work with you and seek your input to help Dallas become a more culturally equitable city.

6. How would you balance the need to support the organizations and facilities of the city's larger arts institutions (in and out of the Arts District) with support for the small, midsize, and emerging organizations and individual artists?

I think that funding from small and midsize organizations must continue to increase from the City's Office of Cultural Affairs. Over the last several years, we have seen several new grant programs that have been developed by the Office of Cultural Affairs to help fund smaller organizations and individual artists. I believe that organizations of all sizes are of vital importance to Dallas' cultural community.

7. Do you believe that it's important that arts and culture are experienced throughout the entire city? How do you plan to bring arts and culture to areas of Dallas that do not have access to the arts? Name three areas of your council district where you think arts and cultural programs and experiences are most needed now.

It is essential to have arts and culture in all our neighborhoods. I think that it is important to have mutual cooperation between the Community Artist Program of the Office of Cultural Affairs and to ensure that programs are in every possible neighborhood library and recreation center.

8. Are you familiar with the City of Dallas - Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) funding programs and what changes, improvements or other innovations would you recommend for OCA Programs?

As Chair of the Arts, Culture, and Libraries of the Dallas City Council, I am very familiar with the funding programs of the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs. I will continue to maintain an open-door policy and would welcome any arts or cultural organizations or individual artists' suggestions regarding changes, improvements and/or other innovative suggestions for the Office of Cultural Affairs funding programs.

9. What's your opinion on bringing together City, Corporate, and Foundation sources in our community to leverage more resources for arts and culture and also achieve equity for small and midsize organizations and individual artists?

I continue to stress economic growth, in tandem with the arts as a quality of life issue. We have the opportunity to stress to our corporate and foundation leadership that all sectors of our arts and cultural community need to be included in the private sector funding pool.

10. The City of Dallas has invested significant resources to the acquisition and development of Public Art including sculptures, murals, paintings, and other art works in our public spaces. What opinions or suggestions do you have regarding the Public Art Program?

I am a firm believer in the Public Art Program because it is an amazing asset for the City of Dallas. Public Art is important in each neighborhood in Dallas and we will continue to engage our citizens and stress the importance that public art makes to our community.

11. The current needs inventory to address a serious level of deferred maintenance, repairs and replacements for City-owned arts facilities totals more than \$186 Million dollars and further delay in addressing these issues will only increase the costs. How would you propose to handle this problem, prioritize the needs, and what kind of plan would you propose to address this issue?

I would continue to explore how the City can create private/public partnerships with corporations and foundations and other philanthropic organizations in order to develop a plan with City staff to help fund needed deferred maintenance on our City-owned arts facilities.

12. Crime in our City continues to be an issue that we are all concerned about. What role, if any, do you think the arts can play in crime prevention strategies?

The arts, especially arts education, are pivotal to our City to help develop positive outlets for our youth in which to engage. For example, through the Community Artist Program, our Dallas Police Department could enhance strategies to prevent crime.

13. If elected, you will appoint representatives to a variety of boards and commissions. What criteria will you use to select appointees and specifically, what would be your requirements for your appointee to the City of Dallas, Cultural Affairs Commission?

While I would not use a litmus test for Cultural Affairs Commission potential appointees, I believe that my appointees to the Commission should understand, love, and be active members of the arts and cultural community.

Thank you for your careful consideration of the questions in our survey. We hope you will attend the Candidate Reception at the Perot Museum on May 1, 2017. We will send an invitation soon.

