



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. 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 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.*

I particularly like the theatre – As an engineer, I never fail to be amazed at how quickly scenes can transform before my eyes.

I have been a volunteer member of church choirs. While a volunteer member of Dallas' Our Lady of Guadalupe church choir, the choir recorded a Christmas CD at the Myerson theatre.

I am a member of WRR classical radio.

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?*

If elected as a Dallas City Councilor, I would certainly be a strong supporter of the arts. The contribution the arts makes to the Dallas economy is enormous – the arts are not a financial drain on the City, far from it, they are an investment. For example, attendance at the City's 19 Office of Arts and Culture supported events and venues is now reported to be in excess of 5 million people. Those attendees, Dallasites and visitors to the City help the local economy in many trickle-down ways. For example, jobs, (restaurants, hotels, tourism, retail stores) and Dallas City and Texas state sales tax revenues.



If elected, my priorities would include the arts and cultural issues among my priorities, i.e. homelessness, affordable housing, crime, public safety, police pensions, police salaries, police recruitment (Dallas is 600 police officers short), roads and sidewalks and transportation issues.

Yes, I would certainly help to ensure that arts and cultural issues continue to be included in the City's legislative agenda. The 2018 Dallas Cultural Plan is an excellent document that provided a collective vision for the future of Dallas arts and culture. Unfortunately, due to COVID, arts and cultural activities were hit hard as all arts and cultural activities were forced to close. The goals included in the Dallas Cultural Plan need to be resurrected. As a counselor for District 14, home to so many of the city's arts and cultural venues, I will fully support and lobby other counselors to keep arts and cultural issues in the City's legislative agenda.

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?*

Yes, for reasons stated above, I strongly agree that the proposed 2014 Bond Programs should significantly include cultural activities. By significantly, I mean between 3 to 5% of the total bond. However, I am realistic of the challenges and anticipate this percentage amount would be a hard sell with other counselors, especially for districts where the Dallas arts community growth has been uneven. Thankfully, the 2018 Dallas Cultural Plan, as discussed above, addresses these challenges along with issues of systematic racism and increase poverty (think utility and rent increases and the increasing lack of affordable housing), that is changing the character of Dallas' poor urban areas as new and wealthier inhabitants are moving into the community and thus displacing the current inhabitants in the process.

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?*

Yes, to help achieve a more equitable distribution of cultural resources than presently exists, I would collaborate with the other 13 counselors and provided the hybrid model of funding currently in place is working, I would vote to continue using the hybrid funding model (i.e. using a hybrid mix of funding from the City's General Fund and a portion of the Hotel Occupancy Tax) to support the City's support of the arts.



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.*

Three areas in District 14 where I consider arts and cultural programs and experiences are primarily most needed is in the field of education. These three areas include the following:

- A children's museum
- Music workshops for grade school summer students
- Art workshops for grade school summer students.

Arts education for students has been shown to promote creativity, critical thinking, innovation, collaboration, problem solving, and communication.

Further, research by the Texas Cultural Trust has reported that those Texas students who are highly engaged in the arts are:

- 112% more likely to score well on standardized tests
- Likely to have a 3.3% greater attendance rate compared to their peers who are not engaged in the arts
- Are two times less likely to drop out of school
- Are 20% more likely to go on and attend college
- Are 42% more likely to attend a four-year college or university.

These are powerful statistics that should not be ignored as they are applicable to all students throughout Dallas, not just District 14. All Dallas students, no matter where they live, should receive the same opportunities, no exceptions.

Please return completed questionnaire to 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