

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):

Name: \_\_Omar Narvaez\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_214-926-0172\_\_\_\_\_

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What Elective office are you running for? City of 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 from [www.dallasneedsthearts.com](http://www.dallasneedsthearts.com)

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.  
**Deep Ellum Arts Festival, Ft. Worth Avenue Pike West Commerce Community Art Fair, Deferred Action, Kinky Boots, Hedwig and The Angry Inch, Wicked, Inaugural DISD Marching Band Showcase, Panelist for Dallas debut and screening of *From Stonewall to Selma*, various art galleries and exhibits,  
I served as a board member on the Bishop Arts Cultural Center by Teco Productions**
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?  
**History has proven that great public art is a hallmark of any thriving city/state/society. I believe Dallas should commit to a strong financing of public arts programs.**

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?  
**We can work with our local chambers to include the city's arts initiatives into our pitches and programming.**
4. How important is Cultural Tourism to the development of our economy and what is your strategy to increase cultural tourism for our City?  
**It is very important for our local economy. Dallas has a unique character and I believe we should continue to tap into that to brand this city as a culturally and artistically vibrant place to visit.**
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?  
**For me, it boils down to access. Our museums, galleries, theaters, installations, and other art initiatives should be available across the city to every Dallas resident and visitor. It should benefit our quality of life across the spectrum. I believe in a strong funding of the arts and a strong engagement with the arts community.**
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 would speak up and propose budget amendments that ensure we are supporting these smaller groups. They are essential to our neighborhoods. For example, I think the amount of money spent on ATTPAC was a bit overboard and to the detriment of more local and mid-sized programs in the city.**
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.  
**I know that there are too many corners of our community that are essentially arts deserts. District 6 has many pockets that need outreach. I believe the neighborhoods in Arcadia Park and southwest Dallas could use some attention and revitalization when it comes to art projects and installations. I am excited to see the boom in the Design District and I believe that it is an area with a lot of live performance potential. I know West Dallas could benefit greatly from expanded after-school programs that are linked to the art community. I believe galleries could thrive and do well in Midway Hollow and areas in the northern part of my district.**

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?  
**I am familiar with the OCA, and I am open to any improvements and innovative ideas regarding it.**
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?  
**They are generally good. I believe that public financing of the arts is very important, but it is stronger when we can bring in private dollars to the table.**
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?  
**The Public Art Program is very special, particularly when it comes to West Dallas. There are so many opportunities to invest in murals and sculptures west of the Trinity River, and I would like to see these efforts expand.**
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.  
**It does not need to be an either-or scenario. Yes, our budget is very tight, but we can adequately finance our infrastructure and public safety needs as well as properly invest in the arts with smart budgeting. I won't support boondoggle projects and development giveaways that do not benefit Dallas. By cutting wasteful spending that benefits solely the wealthy and out-of-town interests, we can invest in programs that benefit Dallas directly like the arts.**
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?  
**I believe that we need to integrate the arts with youth programs to help steer our young people away from illegal temptations. This means coordination with our parks and rec department as well as our local ISDs.**
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?  
**All appointments should be strong community leaders who can meaningfully contribute to Dallas through their expertise and involvement. When it comes to the Cultural Affairs Commission, I would likely appoint a District 6 person who is involved in the budding art community of West Dallas.**

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.