

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: Matt Wood

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What Elective office are you running for? Dallas City Council District 14

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 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.

Performances in last 12 months

A Good Man Charlie Brown

Grease!

Strong Wings Fly

Oklahoma! At Booker T Washington

Two Pegasus Black and White shows

Multiple Pocket Sandwich Theater shows

A Christmas Carol

Several ATTPAC Musicals

Multiple DIFF Events

Multiple visits to DMA

Visited Crow/Nasher

Boards/Volunteer/Contributor/Season Ticket Holder

(Assuming past and present)

Friends of DTC

Dallas Summer Musical – Prior Season Ticket holder

Dallas Summer Musical Academy - Supporter

Pegasus Theater – Supporter

Former Board member of 500 Inc and Artfest Director

Former Board member of Deep Ellum Film Festival/DEFMAN

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?

I have long been a champion of the arts through volunteerism, contribution and patronage. I believe the Dallas art community is a far greater city asset than many realize and deserves more promotion, exposure and support by both city and citizens. As a councilmember, I commit to shining a very bright light on our amazing arts community.

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?

Performances and tours of the Arts District as well as exposure to the breadth of our city and citizens involvement in our vibrant art offerings should be a part of each visit and events like Aurora should be used by the city to invite prospective relocations.

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

Beyond our region we still have work to do in order to showcase that diversity and unique cultural elements of Dallas. I would like to see more effort put into planning cultural events that are concurrent with other large tourism activities and marketed as part of the experience of being in Dallas. This would include both Arts District events and events at venues in other locations throughout the city.

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?

Accessible artistic experiences for all, in venues large and small – coupled with accessible funding for artists of all walks of life and for all styles of artistic expression. Funding is important, but art is created to be seen, experienced and participating in, encouraging more citizens to attend, even volunteer for smaller organizations that are actually creating art in pockets throughout our city would benefit both artist and 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?

While Dallas is well-known for its large private gifts, finding ways to encourage more citizens to give generously to smaller and emerging organizations (where smaller amounts can make a tremendous difference) with matching city funds could grow the overall available support of all arts.

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.

District 14 is unique in that it is already home to much of the art and culture of Dallas. I would like to work with other council members to find a way to take the wealth of Art and Culture in District 14 and share it other parts of the city. At the same time, I would like to learn more about the smaller arts and cultural groups in other districts that could benefit from having access to the large stage of presentations available in District 14.

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 OCA and have worked through the granting process there with a couple of art organizations. I support their work and would like to find ways to grow the total amount made available to all organizations, but particularly those that are creating new content.

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?

As I stated in #6, while Dallas does private/public partnerships on a large scale well, I would like to see a similar model that makes moderate amounts of city funds stretched by matching them with the large pool of potential Corporate/Foundation partners who can more easily participate in moderate contributions – making a huge impact on smaller/midsize and emerging art forms.

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 has added much to our city core and other nearby locations, and I am supportive. While current Public Art placements are long-term installations, I would like to explore the possibility that some future elements be part of a more city-wide rotation for great visibility and impact.

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.

While that number seems high considering that several of the facilities are fairly new, I'd review the needs inventory with the arts community, seek a ranking of most pressing and those that, if not addressed, will accelerate in cost in the future or most negatively impact revenue immediately and then focus on what city money might be available based on all city needs while seeking partnerships of every type to help meet the total needs.

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?

Art draws us together and I believe community-oriented art can help create closer neighborhoods, better neighbors. Stronger, involved neighborhoods are safer neighborhoods. Including our first responders in our arts community – not for security but as part of the fabric of our city, also helps build comfort and confidence, even camaraderie with them – rather than fear/anxiety.

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?

For all positions I will seek out talented, knowledgeable appointees with a base of knowledge in each board/commission. For CAC, I would seek someone with knowledge of our and ideally other arts environment who can champion all artists and understands the unique funding needs of the arts 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.