



ARTS & CULTURE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MAYORAL CANDIDATES

Please take a moment to answer the DACAC Arts & Culture Questionnaire for Mayoral 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 AVD@ArtsDallas.org as soon as possible. Thank you!

#DallasNeedstheArts #ArtsVoteDallas #TXArtsMatter

YOU AND THE ARTS

Give us a sense about your relationship with the arts.

QUESTIONS: Is there an arts genre or form you particularly enjoy, and what is it? What arts and cultural events or performances have you attended in the last year? 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 love the arts-I always have and always will. My love for the arts manifest from my parents who enrolled me in piano lessons at 5 years old. I also performed with my father and uncles in a family band growing up. My love is performance arts, particularly music, but I have grown to appreciate all arts. I have supported many arts organizations through the years including Teatro Dallas, Cara Mia, the Black Academy of Arts and Letters, the Dallas Museum of Art, and our student artists in Dallas ISD. This support has come in many forms including votes on the school board, personal financial donations, or the bolstering of work during my tenure as President of the Latino Center for Leadership Development. My most favorite recent experience with the arts was helping to support the establishment of the Mexico exhibit at the Dallas Museum of Art through my work with the Latino Center for Leadership Development.

ADVOCACY

The role of an elected leader is in large part being a cheerleader for the City of Dallas and the things that make our city special. Dallas mayors such as Annette Strauss and Mike Rawlings, and former Councilmember Veletta Lill understood the importance of the arts to the city's economic development, tourism, vibrancy, cultural brand and quality of life. (See attached one-pager.) They made the arts a centerpiece of their agenda and legacy.

QUESTION: 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? And what are the ways you would advocate for the arts in and out of Dallas?

The arts are responsible for creating so much economic opportunity in Dallas. The arts help us celebrate diversity in Dallas. The arts attract people to the city of Dallas. If elected, I will continue to support the arts and be a vocal proponent for the growth of the arts in the city. Our next mayor must ensure the AT&T Performance Arts Center remains financially stable and I pledge to do this. We must also work with the Dallas Independent School District to help expand arts for the students in Dallas ISD and I also pledge to do this. The next mayor must also ensure that the city budget continues to maintain current funding for the arts and where it can, expand funding for the arts. I pledge to do this as well.



These things can be accomplished if our next mayor makes them a priority. I plan to do this because I recognize the value of the arts to our city.

EQUITY

*The 2018 Dallas Cultural Plan – just approved **unanimously** by the City Council – placed Equity at the top of priorities for the arts. This includes equity in funding, providing cultural experiences in underserved parts of our city, supporting both the new and emerging arts community as well as our historic institutions. Additional resources will be required to reach this goal.*

QUESTION: Given the many needs of the city, how will you support the goal of sustaining and growing the City's current investment in the arts, and ensure the Cultural Plan does not gather dust on the shelf?

The cultural plan was a laborious process but in the end, this plan is a gem for the city. Arts organizations and leaders from across the city put agendas aside and worked in unison to forecast a solid vision for the arts. Our next mayor must take this work seriously and where they can, lead the effort in supporting its recommendations. Where we can, the city must partner with other municipal and county institutions to help grow the arts. Two immediate institutions the city can partner with would be the Dallas ISD and the Dallas County Community College. Each of these institutions has numerous facilities and current/future artists that can be tapped into to expand the arts, including identifying performance spaces that can be shared. Furthermore, it is essential that the city seek ways to obtain revenue from the Air B&B tax coffers. There is a host of dollars that can be tapped into that the city currently does not access that could inject capital into the expansion of the arts.

HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX

To help fund its implementation, the Cultural Plan calls for an increase in the arts portion of the City's Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) to align with peer cities. HOT funds are paid by tourists, not Dallas taxpayers. Currently, 2.6% is dedicated to the arts (about \$1.6M.) Houston is 19%, San Antonio is 11%, Austin is 15%.

QUESTION: Would you support a *significant* increase of the arts portion of the HOT to create and sustain a major cultural tourism marketing program, repairs and maintenance of neglected cultural venues, and increased support for arts programs that add to the cultural vibrancy and attractiveness of Dallas as a destination?

It is essential that the city free up funds or generate streams of new revenue to affirm the city's commitment to the arts and keep pace with the rest of the state. Perhaps this is through an increase in allotment to the arts through the HOT. Before the HOT is on the table, it is absolutely critical that the city untap revenue from the Air B&B tax. Doing this potentially injects a new stream of capital that can significantly help the arts. Second, it will be essential that the city understand what the HOT can and cannot be used for so that any and all legal hurdles are cleared and there is no ambiguity around what HOT funds can and cannot be used towards. Finally, if all of this is accomplished, seeking ways to creatively use HOT revenue for the arts is something I am willing to work with the arts and hotel stakeholders on. What I will not do is allow revenue to divide two communities that are essential to keeping Dallas vibrant. I am committed to seeking common ground and helping the people and their city thrive.

Please return completed questionnaire to AVD@ArtsDallas.org as soon as possible.

Miguel Solis Mayoral Candidate
Received 3/23/19



Please mark your calendars to participate in the Arts & Culture Mayoral Forum at the Nasher Sculpture Center on March 25 from 4:30 – 6:30 PM

AND

The Candidate Reception for all Mayoral and City Council Candidates at The Perot on 4/29 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM