



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 have lived my entire adult life in Dallas, serving as an attorney, educator, nonprofit CEO and civic leader. But throughout my time in Dallas I have spent so much of it supporting our arts community. I was actually a member of the very first Arts and Culture Advisory Commission. I have also served on the Boards of numerous organizations like the Dallas Museum of Art, the Dallas Theater Center, and the Dallas Film Society (and served as a Co-Chair of the 2017 Gala). I am currently on the board of the Texas Book Festival. I am proud of their Reading Rock Stars program, which comes to Dallas every year and allows children to meet with authors and take home a book (often their first one).

My husband and I are avid theater-goers (Center Circle members) and in the past year we have seen more than a dozen productions. Most recently for Valentine's Day (a rare night off from the campaign!) the two of us enjoyed a performance of "Falsettos" at the AT&T Performing Arts Center. We are also members of the Meadows Museum, a particular jewel of our city and one of the finest collections of Spanish art in the world.

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?

Dallas is truly a global city when it comes to its arts. The strength of our theaters, museums, and other venues has us on a worldwide stage. I would certainly make it a priority to promote the arts and culture of our city. I would like to build upon the current work of Mayor Rawlings and the Dallas Cultural Plan. Dallas deserves an advocate for our artists, cultural organizations, and the businesses and philanthropies supporting these efforts. I would use the mayoral platform to be a strong advocate implementing the Dallas Cultural Plan, just like I have for previous endeavors with the Mayor's Task Force on Poverty.



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?

I do not want the Dallas Cultural Plan to become another neglected project. In particular, I would like to focus on the Cultural Plan's aim to make arts an equitable area of growth for all of our city. My campaign is heavily focused on systemic issues of poverty, particularly concerning the neighborhoods of concentrated poverty that exist in every city council district.

Let's make it possible for all neighborhoods of Dallas to experience arts and culture because we know that these things enhance development for children. I am focused on making life better for all parts of our city, and access to the arts is a major factor in that opportunity.

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?

I do support the recommendation from the Dallas Cultural Plan about increasing the Hotel Occupancy Tax dedicated to the arts. Utilizing the HOT will allow Dallas to transparently and accurately increase funding for out arts and cultural centers. Dallas is attracting thousands of visitors a year because of our robust programming. We know that many of the venues require renovation and technological improvements. Let's ensure our Dallas residents and those visiting our magnificent city have the best possible experience with our cultural amenities.

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

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