



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 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 always been a supporter of the arts. I have served on the boards of art and history organizations in the past, Shakespeare Festival, Old City Park and The Kennedy Center Imagination Celebration. I routinely take in arts programming and take my grandchildren. I want them to know and understand all the possibilities life has to offer. I believe that exposure to the finer things in life are a key factor in the growth and development of young people.

I am a member of the Board of Trustees of the Dallas County Community College District and support all student productions. I was recently in New York City and took in several plays: Pretty Woman, My Fair Lady and Beautiful. I was in Washington, DC last year and visited a number of Smithsonian museums.

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?

I see the small and emerging arts groups that are already in District 3 as potential partners to expand and enhance after school and park and recreation center programming. In many cases, for little or no cost, our youth and seniors can benefit from this programming and the community at large can have positive, low cost, LOCAL options for entertainment and enrichment.

I would call on the groups and the community to help me come up with proposals that I would push for funding.



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?

Since there is a component in the plan that calls for joint ventures between groups and for new audience development, I would hold community forums that bring District 3 residents, District 3 arts groups, and the major legacy arts groups and facilities together to create joint programming as well as affordability for City-owned arts venues that often are out of the financial reach of District 3 residents. I would look at a sliding scale for rents as well as organize and create private funding opportunities to supplement the costs of quality art facility access.

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?

The recent scandal around the salaries and fees paid to "Visit Dallas" would be one of the areas I would look at to help fund Arts and Culture in Dallas – especially District 3. Demanding and getting **good value** for the money we spend is a MUST! In addition to this, I would support and work for a tax rate that is comparable with our peer comparison cities and how they fund their arts programs and initiatives. Based on your numbers, an 8 to 12% tax would be indicated. Whether this increase could be tolerated in the current environment is the issue. **Depending on public support**, I could push for the increase in increments over time or all at once.

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.

The neighborhoods around Thurgood Marshall, Park in the Woods, and Arcadia Park Recreation Centers are strategically located in the district and already have strong community based programs and services that could be enhanced and expanded to include more arts and cultural offerings to our residents. These areas are already ethnically and economically diverse and are widely used.

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

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