



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.

As an elected official and a Dallas resident we have made it a point to attend as many diverse arts and cultural events as possible. I have been a member of several organizations, including the Oak Cliff Coalition for the Arts and have actively supported many of our smaller arts organizations. I also proudly served as Chair to the Dallas City Council's Arts, Culture, and Libraries Committee who brought the Dallas Arts Month idea for you to our Mayor and Council. I Love The Arts!

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?

During my terms on the Dallas City Council, I advocated for increased funding from the General Fund and other public funding sources for increased funding for the arts. I believe that our arts and cultural organizations make a positive difference in the quality of life in our city. Furthermore, I believe that our cultural community's diverse cultural array of arts, including smaller organizations and individual artists, should be represented and reflected in our city. Dallas has the diversity of audiences who respect and support this diversity. I believe the City of Dallas must continue to fund the Office of Cultural Affairs and I will stress to our partners the importance of it so we may leverage with the City's sources of funds.

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?

This is a priority for me as I value the importance of it throughout our community; thus, I would be



committed to work with you and seek your input to help Dallas become a more culturally equitable city with a sustainable and growing program.

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 maintain an open door policy and welcome and suggestions for improvements and sustainability. Thus I can assure you I would explore the various options to ensure all viable opens for a sustainable art and cultural program.

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.

Dallas City Council District 6 welcomes all arts and cultural programs and experiences. We have two great statues in our very own district which bring much cultural awareness as well as our very own Anita Martinez Recreation Center , Nash/Davis Recreation Center, Jaycee Zaragoza Recreation Center and Bachman Lake Recreation Centers who house several programs and organizations that bring much more. We also welcome the Arts in Arcadia Park, Keeneland Parkway area where many Arts organizations have brought different much needed programs with their partnership with Dallas Independent School District. In our Asian Trade District area we house the Korean American Cultural Center for now in hopes to someday house either in District or The City of Dallas our Asian Cultural Center!

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