



## 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](http://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](mailto: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 was exposed to the arts at a very young age. My parents and grandparents would regularly take me to various art museums and galleries. I was in several plays when I was a youth as well. I have attended performances at the Dallas Black Dance Theatre in the last year.

I enjoy art in all forms, however I especially enjoy art galleries. I enjoy this form of art because it is very subjective. I could see one thing within a painting or piece of art, and someone else could see something completely different. I enjoy sharing what I see and seeing what another eye observes while looking at the same piece of art. I enjoy the debates and conversation based on differing opinions and views.

### 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 envision my role as an elected official for the city of Dallas as being one that promotes the arts. I believe that the arts, especially in my district, are extremely important. The arts touch every age group and can potentially inspire our community in a variety of ways. I will continue to promote the arts and fight to bring more of the arts to my community. I would advocate for the arts by bringing more expressions of the arts to our district through several different avenues. One way I believe we can bring more arts into the district is by using statues, monuments, and plaques that celebrate unique figures. Another way to bring the arts into our communities would be to invest in abandoned buildings and convert these in performing arts centers for the youth. Our community has a deep appreciation for the arts, in all forms, and need a champion that will advocate for the expansion of the arts into our communities.



### 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 am committed to advancing the arts in my community and throughout the city of Dallas. I hope to advocate for the arts at every opportunity both at city hall and in the neighborhoods. I plan to support this goal by reminding the council and the community of our goals and reminding them that this should be a priority of the council. The cultural plan will not gather dust and be relegated to a file cabinet on my watch. I plan to discuss this plan with the council and with members of the community every time we as citizens lose sight of our goals.

### 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?

Yes, I would support a drastic increase of the arts portion of the HOT. This is the most plausible way to increase funding for the arts. Also, I believe tourists and travelers that come to Dallas will appreciate the fact that we are using a portion of this money to increase funding for the arts and maintenance, given that Dallas is an arts and cultural hub. If the increase is made, we will be able to expand our arts programs and offerings to include every community. Cultural vibrancy and attractiveness is a big selling feature for the city of Dallas and therefore we should increase the amount of funding we appropriate to arts in Dallas.

### 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.

I believe the 3 most important areas where arts and cultural programs would make a difference in my community would be:

- 1.) In local public schools
- 2.) In public spaces along Lancaster Rd
- 3.) In open spaces along Marsalis Avenue

There are numerous places where I believe the arts would be beneficial to the community. I would like to see local art studios and galleries, plaques and statues, and abandoned buildings turned into small theatre spaces in these areas.

Asa O. Woodberry District 4  
Received 4/01/19



*Please return completed questionnaire to [AVD@ArtsDallas.org](mailto: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*