



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 dacac@artsdallas.org by April 17, 2023. Thank you!

#DallasNeedstheArts #ArtsVoteDallas #TXArtsMatter

YOU AND THE ARTS

Give us a sense about your relationship with the arts.

- *Is there an arts form you particularly enjoy? What is it?*
- *What talents and/or history do you have in the arts. Include any arts organizations or commissions have you supported as a member, volunteers, contributor or season ticket holder?*
- *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 a stressed out law student at Texas Tech University School of Law, who was also struggling with my sexuality during that time, I found an emotional outlet through writing fiction pieces, and I have always gravitated towards literary arts. I'm particularly excited to see The Writer's Garret come to life in Oak Cliff (D1) and am financially supporting that organization.

Over my last two terms as Councilmember for District 1, I have fought for more funding for library programming, enhanced programming during the COVID-19 pandemic for the OC3, and funding for the Bishop Arts Theater, all of which I secured by negotiating with other Councilmembers.

In Oak Cliff, my children regularly participate in arts and crafts programming sponsored by the Dallas Library in conjunction with OCA), and by local programming by Color Me Empowered and Oil & Cotton. I will continue to support the arts if elected to my next term.

ADVOCACY

The non-profit arts and culture sector plays a big role in the Dallas economy. The most recent study showed almost a \$1 billion economic impact, supporting 33,000 jobs, driving cultural tourism, attracting relocations and talent, boosting education outcomes, and improving the quality of life across Dallas. Given this wide impact, we hope our elected leaders will help advocate for this sector.

- *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?*
- *Will you help ensure that arts and cultural issues continue to be included in the City's legislative agenda for Austin and Washington?*

Historically, arts & cultural programming have been the first item cut in the City's budget when cuts are called for. This is unacceptable. The lack of access to culture and arts, particularly in marginalized communities, contributes towards the drivers of poverty. All parts of the city should have equitable access to the arts, and I will continue to be a vocal advocate.



2024 BOND PROGRAM

The City of Dallas owns 19 cultural venues and centers. The needs inventory for maintenance and repairs on these facilities is projected to grow \$32M - from \$89M in 2017 to \$120M by 2024. Yet the bond office’s proposal is only for \$15M. It’s a cultural pot hole that is only getting bigger and bigger. These are venues that generate tax revenues, support jobs, and draw cultural tourism – IF you keep them maintained.

- *Do you feel cultural facilities should be a part of the 2024 Bond Programs?*
- *If not, how would you work to get the needs inventory reduced and heading in a positive direction?*
- *If so, would you work to ensure the 2024 Bond Program includes cultural facilities at a significant level?*

When I served on the 2017 Bond Task Force, we were informed by the City Management that the arts community was not receiving significant funds during that year, but would be a “priority” in the “next” bond. The next bond is here, and our cultural facilities should be among the top priorities.

ARTS FUNDING

To help achieve a more equitable distribution of cultural resources, the City now uses a hybrid mix of funding from both the General Fund and a growing portion of the Hotel Occupancy Tax (on track to reach 15% by 2027.) This mix allows for a wide range of programs, from arts education to exhibitions and performances, individual artists and arts organizations, and more.

- *Would you work to continue this hybrid funding model and support the City’s support of the arts?*

Yes.

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.*

1. We need to enhance and expand the options at The Oak Cliff Cultural Center, including either an expansion of their space or new space.
2. The Writer’s Garret must be empowered to succeed and expand as an organization



DALLAS AREA CULTURAL ADVOCACY COALITION

3. The southwest and furthest western sections of D1 are devoid of city funding for arts and culture. We hope to close that gap a bit by including artistic elements in the D1 skate park at Westmoreland Park.

Please return completed questionnaire to dacac@artsdallas.org as soon as possible.

Join us for a Candidate Reception for all Mayoral and City Council Candidates at The Perot on 4/17 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM