



## 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 am a video specialist for the City of Dallas, I make art on an annual basis in video production. I enjoy music, place, museums and dance. I was at the South Dallas Cultural Center for the Juanita Craft Birthday Celebration. I also attended events at TBAAL and Oak Cliff Cultural arts Center on Jefferson. I participate and help do audio/video for Cit of Dallas Employee Resource Groups. I love live performances and live music are my favorite. I do support, my niece dances with DBDT and local artists.

### 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 am an artist myself, so I will be a champion leader for the arts. I graduated from SMU Meadows School of the Arts. I want to create new ways to increase funding and resources because art crosses racial and cultural bounds. As an audio/video specialist, I will continue to advocate for arts because it's my life. It is why I have helped teach over 1,000 boys how to tie ties, it's why I participated with the Redefining the black image with over 100 Black Men in Deep Ellum and it is reach in my culture, my race, my history, deep in my blood.

### 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?



By supporting and participating in programs will help bring awareness to keep the community informed. I also will make sure our culture programs and institutions get funding to enhance programs. I also want the schools to partner and co-sponsor events to increase visibility as well as attendance.

**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, and this is a creative way to generate more funds.

**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.

South Dallas, Fair Park & Pleasant Grove.

*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*