



## 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 have season tickets to the #HearHere speakers series since its inception as #thinkspeak, and I particularly enjoy live music. I also enjoy live theater. Previous season ticket holder to Kitchen Dog Theater, Dallas Theater Center, Dallas Symphony Orchestra. I've donated to the Texas Flute Society, Dallas Children's Theater and have purchased art from local artists. A significant portion of my discretionary income goes to cultural experiences. I was active in theater in the New Orleans area, Slidell Little Theater, a member of the drama society of my college, and I participated in a volunteer mime troupe (don't judge).

### 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 think a city dies when it doesn't focus on the arts. There are far more benefits than tourism, but that is a primary one. Dallas should be the beacon to surrounding areas for performances, exhibits, and interactive experiences. As a liberal arts major in college, the arts taught me how to speak well, think creatively, be open-minded and to love human expression. The arts are of prime importance on a primal level to me. I would be a champion for the creative arts in Dallas and out of Dallas. We have a lot to be proud about, but we can always learn from other 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?

The first thing I would do is shift the maintenance and repair of City of Dallas-owned spaces to the facilities budget. We should also focus on funding our cultural arts institutions through the annual budget and not rely on bond funding for basic needs. I would also make sure the Cultural Plan is implemented via the OCA and require a quarterly report on progress. Too often we create a plan and think we are done.

## 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?

Absolutely. This percentage is appalling. I would support reapportioning the percentage that currently goes to Visit Dallas. The arts are a B\_G draw to Dallas and should be funded accordingly.

## 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.

District 9 has the grandeur of White Rock Lake and the Bath House Cultural Center on its shore. I would like to see more outdoor programs to draw people to the Lake and to encourage people to stop and watch/listen. Buskers, short plays, small concerts, roving interactive theater, anything that compels participation. I would also like to see more coordination with arts programs and the Library system. The arts are for everyone, not just the wealthy. I am encouraged by the inclusion of equity in the Dallas Cultural Plan, in particular bringing the arts to traditionally underserved areas. Children should be able to experience art, music, theater in their own neighborhoods and not just on a school field trip; culture should not have a wall around it. I am in support of additional resources to support these efforts. They create new lovers of the arts and that creates a self-sustaining system. The outreach will pay for itself in ways we cannot now imagine.

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