



## ARTS & CULTURE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MAYORAL CANDIDATES

Please take a moment to answer the DACAC Arts & Culture Questionnaire for Mayoral 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.

My family introduced me to the arts at a very young age and I fell in love. Even though I grew up in a town of 11,000 people, we attended monthly community concerts where I recall seeing a Ballet Folklórico performance and being captivated by the bright, lovely costumes and amazing dance! I grew up playing the piano, oboe and dancing ballet and we often traveled up to Houston for ballet and theater. I played piano in the nursing home on Sunday afternoons which brought the residents and me great joy. The arts have always been an important part of my life, and I've made it a priority to lead for making great art and performance accessible to all. I've served on the Boards of AT&T Performing Arts Center, The Dallas Opera, TACA (The Arts Community Alliance), Dallas County Community College District Foundation-Visual Arts, Dallas Film Society-Cinematic Arts, Dallas International Film Festival, Texas Ballet Theater, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Theater Center, and the Dallas Museum of Art. As Mayor, I would be a champion for the arts, and find ways to bring people together and draw visitors to Dallas via our great Arts District.

### 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?

For the last 25 years, I have taken a leadership role in promoting the growth and vibrancy of the arts in Dallas. As Mayor, I will continue this work through championing the Dallas Cultural Plan and striving to ensure that the arts are a top priority in our city. I will work for inclusion and diversity in the arts and creating local spaces for artists to practice and perform. As a current Board member of the AT&T Performing Arts and part of the Pillar Campaign Committee to raise funds to build the ATTPAC, I've been involved in every aspect of building and maintaining our city's cultural center.



I've also served as The Dallas Opera Chairman of the Board for the past year, along with many other leadership positions in The Arts Community Alliance, Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Museum of Art, and Texas Ballet Theater.

## **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?

My history of investment in the arts is the best indication of my future involvement in growing and maintaining the city of Dallas' investment in the arts. Not only does a thriving cultural center provide economic incentive for attracting new business, it is a necessary part of the quality of life in our city for our citizens. Giving students the ability to experience the opera or ballet, or enjoy an afternoon at the Dallas Museum of Art should be an opportunity available to everyone in our city. One project I am particularly proud of that I have worked on is with the Dallas Community College District. I led the Arts Initiative for the development of the Founders Foyer of the DCCCD Headquarters. The Founders Foyer is now a beautiful space and has rotating art exhibits for their students to display their works. I chair a committee that reviews and selects the art that will be displayed and awards scholarships to the selected artists.

## **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?

As Mayor, I will lead to invest a bigger portion of our HOT tax to the arts. Growing the arts and creative culture in Dallas is vital to enriching the culture of our city and establishing Dallas as a cultural destination. We must invest in the creation of new spaces for home grown talent and continue the maintenance of the incredible venues, museums, and programming that we currently have in Dallas.

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

*Please mark your calendars to participate in the Arts & Culture Mayoral Forum at the Nasher Sculpture Center on March 25 from 4:30 – 6:30 PM*

**AND**



*The Candidate Reception for all Mayoral and City Council Candidates at The Perot on 4/29 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM*