



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 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.

Reared in the Black church influenced profoundly by Pentecostal and Evangelical traditions, I grew up around people of faith who understood that music, drama and oratory were critical components of sacred expressions. Coming of age and then graduating from Baylor University in Waco, I continued to expose myself to experiences that integrated the arts with curricular and extracurricular activities. Completing my formal education and going into business for myself, I expressed my own artistic flare in photography and literature, publishing motivational texts and installing artwork on the walls of my hair salon that also spoke to the intersections of identity and entrepreneurship. My life's work has been in the fashion and beauty industry. My work is an artistic expression of the vivid colors in nature. In the past year, I went to Florence, Italy to the Michelangelo exhibit and to the Sistine Chapel to see the incredible work of Michelangelo and many other Italian artist. I've visited the Metropolitan museum in New York and the African American Museum here in Dallas. I've also attended the local performances of The Lion King and The Color Purple. My last real encounter was last month. I went to a performance by the SMU opera and it was breathtaking.

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?



If elected, I intend to model the truth that “art” is not a luxury, embellishment or line item in the City of Dallas. Just as the collection of property taxes and public education of our children are non-negotiable duties, I intend to model the truth that our cultural brand must become a comparable mindset. Given how my own identity, education and business were all shaped by arts and culture, both are top priorities for me. In and out of Dallas I will continue my arts advocacy by accepting challenges to change the mindsets of colleagues and donors, in particular, whose foundations and gifts can help make the case that municipalities should not be put into positions that call for civil servants to choose between funding the arts or feeding the homeless.

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?

In and out of Dallas, I will support the goal of sustaining and growing the Dallas’ current investment in the arts by working hard to change the mindsets of my colleagues and donors, in particular, whose foundations and gifts can help make the case that municipalities should not be put into positions that call for civil servants to choose between funding the arts or feeding the homeless.

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 certainly would up to 8.25% which would be exactly the sales tax rate.

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.

**Kaye Flewellen District 4
Received 3/15/19**



DALLAS AREA CULTURAL ADVOCACY COALITION

The average household income in District 4 is approximately \$30,000. I believe that by exposing the students and families in the most impoverished areas, to the arts, it would change the trajectory of their lives.

The new deck park area would be ideal to house a new facility for the arts. I envision that as a cultural melting pot of arts and cultures.

Please return completed questionnaire to 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