



## 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.

I enjoy American graphic design and specifically the work of Erik Nitsche. I have a collection of original 1950s posters from the famous General Dynamics Series. Nitsche's work is recognizable for its uncluttered minimalism and tasteful use of text as a design element. Nitsche established symbolism for emerging technology and then transcended the symbolism to become abstract art, as in his work "Atoms for Peace."

I also enjoy chess support local chess. I do appreciate that the role of chess as a game, sport, or art is debatable.

My family supports baile folklorico, the highly choreographed traditional Mexican dances complete with regional dress. Our daughter, Catalina, is a performer.

### 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 will be a champion of the arts in the tradition of Mayor Annette Strauss, Mayor Mike Rawlings, and Councilmember Veletta Lill. I am committed, as my legacy, to increase funding for Arts & Culture through the reallocation of funding from VisitDallas and the City's Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT). By coupling the HOT financial investment with the newly revised Cultural Plan, we will succeed in growing arts and culture.

### 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?

I am proud of the unanimously approved 2018 Dallas Cultural Plan. I am proud of my advocacy for small arts groups and historically ignored arts communities in the City of Dallas. I support Equity at the top of the priorities for the arts. I am committed to providing the additional funding, funding from VisitDallas and the City’s Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT), to make the 2018 Dallas Cultural Plan a reality.

#### **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?

I support a significant increase in the arts portion of the HOT to create and sustain our arts and culture. I support a full 15% allocation, the highest allowed by law. If additional funding can be taken from VisitDallas and provided to arts and culture, I will support.

*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*