



ARTS & CULTURE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MAYORAL CANDIDATES
RESPONSES OF ALBERT BLACK

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. 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.

I have served as a board member on the Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture and the Dallas Foundation, each of which is a supporter of the arts.

My favorite art form is photography. I not only enjoy seeing the work of others, but have also taken classes myself. I have also attended chamber music performances – someone I am close too is a violist. Our family company has also supported the Dallas Symphony.

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 too believe that the arts in Dallas makes our city special. Arts and culture will be included in my high priorities. I am running for mayor to build a better Dallas for all of us, rich or poor, male or female, black, brown or white – or any of the beautiful shades in between. Arts and culture – especially programming directed toward historically overlooked parts of our city, can help us do that. I am encouraged by the equity plank in Dallas' recently approved Cultural Plan. And as a businessman who wants to see Dallas remain competitive with America's greatest cities, I also value the contributions that arts and culture bring to our economy and our ability to attract top talent – and the jobs that come with it.

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 generally in favor of your proposal to increase the FY19-20 Office of Cultural Affairs budget from the General Fund by 5% (\$1 million). The only caveat is the need to balance this need with so many others in the



budget. But after spending my life running my business and helping others to make their businesses more efficient, I am confident we can find savings in our budget to accommodate this.

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?

We need to take a look at how our HOT funds are being allocated. The recent reports of financial abuses at VisitDallas, which receives a large portion of HOT funds, is disturbing. Funding for the arts in Dallas should not lag behind Houston, Austin and San Antonio. A more responsible and efficient use of those funds should make room for increasing funding for arts and culture.

Please return completed questionnaire to 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