



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.

Though I am not myself talented at the arts, I appreciate the vibrant arts scene here in Dallas. I have always particularly enjoyed performing arts as my parents regularly took us to see plays by the Black Academy of Arts and Letters and the local performances by Collin County Community College. In high school, I performed in school plays. I continued to watch and support school plays in college though, I didn't have the talent to be in one. I am a regular visitor to the Dallas Museum of Art and have had the opportunity to see 2 stage plays at Fair Park, most recently Hamilton. In my time at the Dallas County Juvenile Department, I fought to strengthen our relationship with Big Thought to allow our residential youth participate in performing and visual arts summer programs. I believe that art gives people the ability to express those things they are not able to verbalize. I think that we could break down many barriers and prejudices through arts.

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?

As an elected official, I am committed to making arts accessible to my constituents in District 10. Often, the arts scene feels out of reach for everyday working-class residents, and I would like to change that dynamic. I would like to see culturally relevant art brought to specific places across Dallas. Additionally, I would like to see an expansion of arts related classes and programs to engage hopeful and emerging artists.

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 Cultural Plan has to be viewed as an integral part of Dallas' plan for economic growth. I believe that if we view the plan in those terms will ensure that it is executed like the rest of our plans to make Dallas the best city to live and visit. Research supports this fact, performing arts organizations add to both the growth of the creative class and to urban economies.

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 would support increasing the portion of the HOT that goes to the arts. We have seen other cities, such as Austin and San Antonio, benefit from having a strongly funded and supported arts scene.

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.

I would like to see more arts projects in our district, particularly in areas that we are working to revitalize. Additionally, I would like to see more venues where local artists can showcase their talents in our district. Finally, our Dallas arts scene continue to become more accessible and inclusive of people of color and low-income residents.

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