



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.

I am very passionate about the arts, as I was a thespian and choir member all through school. I am most passionate about musical theater, but appreciate all platforms of individuality and ability to express one's self. I unfortunately do not have a lot of discretionary time these days so the past year would be almost none. I have attended various performances by Skyline High School theater productions, and I am currently a chef instructor leading the Culinary Arts program at Skyline as well. Last summer, my wife and I traveled to Europe for our first time for our 10 year anniversary and we were able to go through several museums. The Louvre and Van Gogh Museum were highlights of our art exposure on this trip. With hopes to represent such a diverse constituency, I have hopes to be much more involved in the arts, specifically cultural arts as it is what makes up our district. I have been a supporter for the preservation and creation of a museum of Juanita Craft's home and my good friend, Cannon Flowers keeps me informed of all the great progress being done with that very important program, but also with all of the other various projects on the Cultural Affairs Commission agenda.

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 believe the arts are a crucial element to increasing the quality of life in our city and overall. I see myself as an supporter and advocate for the arts as an elected official and will always be in support of smart plans



requiring financial assistance. I believe District 7 specifically has so much cultural and historical significance of our city, that we need to highlight some of the culture and preserve it at all cost. We need to invest more in youth programs and educational platforms to tell the story of that significance and continue to see our city flourish with more art beautification projects throughout the city. I love some of the “street art” projects that have been done in several cities in our country.

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?

Like with many things, it is important to have leadership that will challenge the continuing pork spending in our budget that prevents us from freeing up some dollars to sustain projects like these. I am a huge supporter of racial equity and would 100% hold feet to the fire and see to it that the Cultural Plan be funded and implemented as a priority. As an educator I am aware first hand of where funding is pulled hen budget cuts are made, the arts, and that is unacceptable to me.

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 believe the increase and investment in our arts district alone can be attributed to much more than 2.6% of the tourism and economic growth that has been brought on by its expansion. I believe the portion of the HOT tax allocated to the arts should more reflect the portion of tourism that the arts brings to our city. Fair Park has the largest collection of Art Deco buildings in one place and was left and neglected to become in a decrepit state and that is something we need to avoid at all cost going forward. Although the arts is a huge asset for tourism, it should also be invested in as a huge asset for the constituents of the city.



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.

South Dallas proper has so much opportunity for increased arts and cultural programs. I believe that we should have much more of an initiative into telling the story of Dallas and the cultural and historical significance of the community and some of it's influencers.(this includes Fair Park)

Joppa is a beautiful community that is one of our last Freedmen's towns left and we really need to invest in preserving, revitalizing, and programs to highlight its cultural significance as well.

The southeast portions of District 7 is heavily populated with latino residents and no arts or cultural programs in the community for that specific demographic. I think we need to promote more programs throughout our city for our youth and ones that reflect the demographic of the communities they will serve.

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