



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 enjoy most theater productions, music, and photo/painted art. I have attended almost every show of the Music Hall Dallas Summer Musical, AT&T PAC Center, Dallas Theater Center, Cara Mia, Bishop Arts Theater Center, Artstillery, The Majestic, Latino Cultural Center, Oak Cliff Cultural Center MariconX, Turtle Creek Chorale, Chinese New Year, Korean American Society, and many events inside of my District at local senior groups, and youth groups at schools and in the recreation centers. I'm sure there are more that I can not remember.

I was once on the board of the Bishop Arts Theater Center, was a season ticket holder of Dallas Summer Musicals, and have supported the Latino Cultural Center, Cara Mia, and Bishop Arts Theater Center financially.

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?

My record this past term has been one of proud moments supporting the Arts and Culture in the City of Dallas. Most recently, I was able to get 2007 Bond money released for the expansion phase 2 project of the Latino Cultural Center. I was an integral supporter of getting a fully equitable Arts and Culture Plan approved by the council with my colleague Sandy Greyson. I have been at the forefront of working with Sammons Center on a potential second location which we are still tirelessly working to achieve. I have worked with many organizations small and large to bring the Arts to West Dallas which has been a desert when it comes to the Arts. We have now worked with DSO, Artstillery, Turtle Creek Chorale, Cara Mia, AT&T PAC, Pinkston HS, Lanier HS, local artists that have worked on piñata making and learning to paint for seniors and young people.

Every event that we host in District 6 now has some form of Arts of Culture as part of our programming like the Benito Juarez Day at Benito Juarez Park we have partnered with Anita Martinez Balet Folklorico and the DSO, our seniors programs at our rec centers we have now partnered with local artists to do workshops, and even the children at our rec centers are working with Artstillery to do programming work. We have even



created an art display wall in my office with all artwork haven't been made by a District 6 resident or has a theme about District 6.

I am now working to hopefully have some type of artist come to council meetings in the future to do a performance of some kind to showcase their work.

I have been advocating for more funding for the Arts and have worked quietly behind the scenes to come up with some creative solutions to achieve this goal.

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 have brought up the Cultural Plan every chance I get when we are working on arts issues. The Cultural plan goes beyond just traditional art and culture events sponsored by the OCA. I have now used the plan to work on arts inside of parks and other city departments.

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 have already started talking to some colleagues about increasing this to the full 15% which would be allowed. I am absolutely in support. For far too long our arts and culture facilities have been neglected and this is a creative solution to gain that ability without having to dip into the general fund.

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.

West Dallas, Bachman and Arcadia Park

Omar Narvaez District 6
Received 3/08/19



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