



## 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](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.

DSO – Was previously a season ticket holder till my husband’s Alzheimer’s prevented us from attending. Often attend concerts with friends.  
DMA – Was a member for years till moved abroad.  
I also enjoy theatre events in some of the smaller “pocket” theatres where you see new and interesting plays – even those at the Rotunda theatre at First United Methodist Church.  
When traveling overseas, I check out the events and concerts available in that location. Favorites are the opera in Vienna, Verona, Prague, Prien am Chiemsee, and Bayreuth, etc.  
Also, European performers often provide intimate concert locations – candle-lit concerts in castles, small local theatres, etc. Those are always delightful.

### 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?

Many visitors to our city come for professional meetings/conventions. After a day of sitting in conference rooms, having an opportunity to escape to a concert, play, etc. for some relaxation is wonderful. Likewise, tourists who are here need assorted options to fill their time while visiting our awesome city. Museums, plays, concerts, etc. provide a tremendous “draw” for both groups as well as outings for city and area residents. I think we often overlook the impact those enrichment opportunities have on our visitors as well as our residents. To be a world-class city, Dallas must have a strong Arts presence.

### 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 think we should allocate a larger percentage of the hotel tax to the Arts. Tourism/hotel occupancy rates have risen significantly. The Arts play a major role in the city's ability to attract those visitors and keep them entertained while they are here. The city budget provides only a small portion of funding needed, and there is little "stretch" room in the current budget. Dallas needs to determine how much financial assistance it can provide in order to fund the Plan that has been developed. Generous benefactors, thankfully, have always stepped forward to keep the Arts afloat. I believe it was in the 80's, the DSO was facing insolvency; had it not been for those benefactors, that organization might not be the world-class symphony it is today.

### 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?

Since we do derive a significant amount of revenue for the city because of the role Arts play within our city, it seems equitable to me to increase the percentage of the Hotel Occupancy Tax allocated to the Arts.

### 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.

Unfortunately, District 12 is so far North of the Central Business District (CBD) and the Arts District, we are in a virtual Arts dessert. We are hoping to see a work of art installed in the small park currently planned for the Hillcrest Village area. As design moves forward, it would be great to see if that park could accommodate "roving" concerts or open area small plays. Other than that, churches, hotels, and recreation centers provide the primary venues where art exhibits or plays/concerts could be staged. Each of those venues has its own challenges.

Currently residents have to drive approximately 17 miles (from the Northernmost area) to get to the Arts District. If they do not want to drive that distance, they often frequent Plano and Richardson venues. That is a tremendous loss for Dallas.

*Please return completed questionnaire to [AVD@ArtsDallas.org](mailto: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*