



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 listening to classical music, symphony orchestra, and art museums. When I was a former educator, I attended many school musical events, also I have attended several art exhibits at the Dallas Arts Museum. As a former educator, I inspired my students to use art to understand the importance of technology. My students and I created a mural of Steve Jobs using old wiring and equipment that was going to be discarded by the district. Students were able to understand the purpose of each component used for the mural and the importance of recycling.

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 would like to create community organizations to get residents involved. This organization would focus on beautification of our neighborhoods and allowing local artist to exhibit their work in certain locations. Also, the program would be an after-school program where children in all areas can come together and express their artistic abilities. The program would offer painting, sculpting, music lessons, ballet, and many other programs. Students who are involved in an artistic environment or program are 4x more likely to be recognized academically. To help fund this program, I would seek grants that are provided to the state each year. Federal government general allocated \$250 million a year for art and humanities program. In addition, partner with local universities, colleges, and community colleges for volunteers from their students.



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?

Promote more festivals in the communities to pay homage to artists and their impact within the community. Also, create a committee that focuses on artistic programs and fundraising opportunities to help facilitate certain events that could be an exhibit for the city, the community, and the artists. Increasing the Hotel Tax and investing more in the TPID (Tourism Public Improvement District) by cutting funds from VisitDallas.

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?

Yes

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.

Area that would be great for this program is:

- University Hill & Laureland
- Duncanville & Illinois
- Westmoreland & Kiest
- Redbird & Hampton

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