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COMPLETE

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Page 1

**Q1**

NAME:

Maxie Johnson

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**Q2**

**District 4**

COUNCIL DISTRICT

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**Q3**

YOU AND THE ARTS Give us a sense about your relationship with the arts (Some ideas to consider) • What art form or cultural organization do you particularly enjoy? • Are your family members involved in the arts? • Share favorite cultural experience in the last two years? • What virtual arts programs have you and your family enjoyed during the pandemic?

I'm a musician; I play the saxophone. I say often that music and fine arts saved my life.

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**Q4**

ADVOCACY The support of our elected City leaders is important to ensuring arts and culture remain a priority at City Hall and part of the civic dialogue. QUESTION: How have you advocated for the arts community and/or how will you do that going forward?

As trustee, I've advocated that we ensure arts are one of our top priorities in DISD bond projects specifically in my district. My advocacy resulted in new choir practice spaces, blackbox theatres at several of our renovated high schools, and funding for a new district-wide fine arts facility. I will continue to ensure we prioritize arts opportunities for children and the adults of our city.

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**Q5**

**SUPPORT & RECOVERY** Prior to COVID, the Dallas creative economy was on track to have an economic impact surpassing \$1B a year, a vital business sector. The pandemic derailed that momentum. Arts facilities were the first to close and will be among the last to reopen at full capacity. The city's nonprofit arts and cultural community has lost more than \$95M and over 1,000 jobs, and cultural tourism has virtually stopped. City support has been critical to keeping these institutions alive. Even in a tough budget year, this need remains. **QUESTION:** Will you work to see that City support continues and how will you ensure arts and culture play a key role in the Dallas economic recovery?

As we recover, we have to make sure as we expand arts we expand arts opportunities South. I believe arts will play a central role in the economic development projects in District 4. I'm committed to ensuring arts are a cornerstone of any large-scale project we are embarking on.

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**Q6**

**EQUITY AND NEIGHBORHOODS** The top pillar of the Dallas Cultural Plan is Equity, with a goal of ensuring arts and culture are accessible in communities that have been historically underserved. And we know when arts are purposefully embedded in the community, they can fight urban blight and create vibrant neighborhoods. **QUESTION:** How will you keep the focus on equitable access to the arts; and specifically where and how would you like to see art used to address challenges in your City Council District. (Some ideas to consider)• Murals• Underpass transformation• More opportunities for ALAANA artists in underserved communities• Popup cultural centers• Neighborhood performances• Economic incentives for developers to create affordable galleries, workshop spaces and artists' housing

Educational inequity leads to poverty and poverty leads to violence. As a trustee over the last 2 years, I have acted decisively to curb the education inequities that exist by advocating for good public policy for our students, particularly black and brown ones. As council member, I will act just as I have on the school board partnering with community arts nonprofits, seek funding for neighborhood artists, and encouraging new incentives to grow arts housing.

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**Q7**

**PARTICIPATION** The Dallas arts and cultural community is diverse and growing and contains a range of genres, ethnicities, locations and more. Every group, especially those serving your district, is honored when elected officials attend a program, visit our organizations, or even stop by a monthly DACAC meeting to say hello. **QUESTION:** Will you commit to attending local programs (performances, exhibitions, classes) or meeting with a Dallas arts organization on a regular basis? What would that look like?

I will absolutely commit to attending as many local programs as I can and encourage my constituents to do that same.

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