



## ARTS & CULTURE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MAYORAL CANDIDATES

Please take a moment to answer the DACAC Arts & Culture Questionnaire for Mayoral 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.

I enjoy art in all its forms but am particularly fond of musical theater. My wife, Nikki, and I are patrons of the arts here in Dallas and have been to numerous shows and performances throughout the city and elsewhere over the course of our lives. We were both previously members of the Dallas Theater Center. Some of the many performances we have attended in the last year or so include: The Lion King, Book of Mormon, Sunset Boulevard (on Broadway with Glenn Close!), The Great Society, and All the Way.

I am proud to have served on the Board of Directors of The Arts Community Alliance.

### 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?

Arts and culture are fundamental to any community, and especially to our community here in Dallas. In many ways, they help define the personality of a city while making a major impact on our quality of life, our sense of cohesion, and our economy. The 2018 Dallas Cultural Plan strives to bring more cultural experiences to more parts of our city and I am committed to this important goal. The Dallas Cultural Plan is a strong and visionary roadmap that is worthy of action.

Mayor Rawlings has been a strong and effective advocate for the arts community. He raised the bar for arts advocacy from the Mayor's office. I want to build on that good work and be an even stronger advocate for the arts in our city. I am a former "band geek" after all.

### 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?

The city and the arts community have made significant investments in the Dallas Arts District and I want to keep this area thriving. It is a public asset that brings people to our city. But our arts community goes well beyond the Arts District. It's critical that we find ways to support and grow smaller and mid-sized arts organizations as well — especially those with an ethnic focus. There are a lot of wonderful art, theater, and other organizations outside the Arts District, and those organizations deserve support because they play an important role in our community.

**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 that a greater portion of the Hotel Occupancy Tax should be dedicated to the arts. This will help fund the implementation of the Dallas Cultural Plan and help support and restore historic arts structures, while also helping supporting a strong cultural tourism campaign, without taking dollars away from the city's General Fund. I will work with stakeholders to determine what the right percentage is so that we can support the needs of our cultural community without harming our other important tourism efforts.

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

*Please mark your calendars to participate in the Arts & Culture Mayoral Forum at the Nasher Sculpture Center on March 25 from 4:30 – 6:30 PM*

*AND*

*The Candidate Reception for all Mayoral and City Council Candidates at The Perot on 4/29 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM*