

ARTS & CULTURE QUESTIONNAIRE

2021 DALLAS CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Thank you being a candidate and for your willingness to serve! And thank you in advance for answering the DACAC Arts & Culture Questionnaire for candidates for Dallas City Council in the upcoming 2021 election. You can fill this out online at [this LINK](#). The responses can go below and the form saved as a pdf and emailed to dacac@artsdallas.org.

1. **NAME: Candy Evans**

2. **COUNCIL DISTRICT: 11**

3. **YOU AND THE ARTS**

Give us a sense about your relationship with the arts

I am the most pro-art candidate in this race! Currently on the board of the USA Film Festival, where I was president in 2015, I support all arts in Dallas, from Opera to film, visual to symphonies and my absolute favorite: theater! And as I mentioned in my interview, Glenn Close is in our family and obviously I am a huge fan!

(Some ideas to consider)

- What art form or cultural organization do you particularly enjoy? **Film and theater, opera, symphony & visual (DMA). And of course I follow and write about architecture every day on our site, CandysDirt.com*****
- Are your family members involved in the arts? **My husband loves film and paintings; my granddaughters love ballet and theater*****
- Share favorite cultural experience in the last two years? **Thanks for making it 2 years! Probably the best is our annual trip to NYC for a theater experience, something I now indulge in every year. This annual journey commenced when Ron Corning invited me to see his partner star in My Big Fat Gay Italian Wedding several years ago, and when one of my children lived in New York City. I did graduate school in Manhattan at Columbia, it's an annual return to the Mother Ship. We took my grand daughter to see Frozen on Broadway and we went to see Glenn star in Sunset Boulevard in 2019.*****
- What virtual arts programs have you and your family enjoyed during the pandemic? **I've been reviewing films for the UDSA Film Festival and watching tons of movies!*****

4. **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?

My best example is that I continue to be an active arts patron and advocate through my work with the USA Film Festival. We love hosting producers and directors at our home during Festival week. I will continue to attend as many arts events as possible and look forward to being on City Council so I can attend even more! I will be the CM who does not do Mavericks games... I'd rather be at the Opera.

5. **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?

I absolutely will. The Arts in Dallas is a huge draw for travel and conventions. And it is my deeply rooted belief that every child should be exposed to the Arts. I will always make sure the Arts are included in every budget and never cut due to budget trims.

Note: I do think you will have a robust season once we reach herd immunity.

6. 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 imbedded in the community, they can fight urban blight and create vibrant neighborhoods. Yes!

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.

While we do have some challenging neighborhoods in D11, and a lot of apartments, most of the district consists of beautiful single family homes hugging a greenspace. I would like to continue the movie nights on the trails, but also would like to bring in more “theater in the park” either in greenbelts or at places like Fretz Park. I love community theater and believe we could partner with NextDoor to form a few of these troupes. Same with painting classes. And perhaps Art is the vehicle to psychologically lift us out of the homeless encampments that we have been fighting at 75 & Central: a huge fence has been erected, which is ugly, actually. Murals on that fence might make the area more attractive and also serve to bring the community together.

But the biggest opportunity for art will be making certain we offer economic incentives for the developers at Midtown as that multi-use project finally launches. I will be looking to the Dallas Arts community for innovation and ideas to make the new development fully bloom artistically. Midtown offers an exciting opportunity for North Dallas to become a second Dallas arts community, and I am hoping we can find/fund special housing for artists at Midtown.

(Some applications 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*

7. 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?

OH MY GOSH YES! I will work in as many as I can, and bring my grand daughter!

While DACAC does not endorse candidates, these responses do guide consideration for support by individuals such as arts patrons and advocates, artists, board members, and more. Your responses will be publicly shared on our website to review. www.DallasNeedstheArts.com.