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Q1

NAME:

Elva Curl

Q2**District 12**

COUNCIL DISTRICT

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?

My husband and I have steadily attended live music concerts for years. From Jay Z to Lady Gaga, to The Killers, we enjoy a wide variety of music and always make it a point to catch a live show when it comes to town. When we first moved to Dallas, our favorite date nights were as simple as packing a picnic dinner and heading down to Samuell Grand to catch a Shakespeare in the Park show. We've also always enjoyed the opera. Before having children, my husband and I held season tickets to the Dallas Opera, and after it moved to the Winspear, we always enjoyed making an entire day of the arts, either by visiting the DMA or Nasher beforehand, and having a nice dinner downtown—many of the restaurants at One Arts Plaza could be considered a work of art as well! My family also enjoys the Dallas Summer Musicals and once most of us in the region are vaccinated and we're given the go-ahead by health professionals, we plan on becoming season ticket holders for the Dallas Summer Musicals as well as the opera. Growing up, my family regularly attended Symphony concerts. My brother is a concert cellist and when he was in high school, he earned a position in the New Philharmonic Orchestra of Irving, so we went to every concert.

My favorite cultural experience in the last two years was taking my older daughter to see the Magic Flute at the Winspear before the pandemic. She was 8 at the time, and was dazzled by the music, costumes, and especially the beautiful chandelier as it silently tucked itself away into the ceiling. We had been planning to attend more operas but unfortunately, the pandemic canceled the season before it could truly begin.

We have, however, have been able to watch the Opera virtually. We've also watched the Nutcracker during the holidays and Hamilton, of course. I can't wait to get back out there and start enjoying the arts again.

Q4

ADVOCACYThe 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?

I have been watching the progress of the Save Our Stages Act this past year. I was very pleased that our Texas Senator John Cornyn was a co-author on this bipartisan bill and was championing it throughout the pandemic along with Senator Klobuchar. I did contact Senator Cornyn's office several times to ask the staff about its progress and voice my support. It was exciting to see a few weeks ago that the Small Business Administration has begun to accept applications for the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant Program. I am hopeful that venues in the Dallas area can apply for this program and seek relief.

Q5

SUPPORT & RECOVERYPrior 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 am thrilled that so many new jobs have been added to our economy in the past quarter. I am hopeful that our economic recovery will continue unabated. With that being said, it is imperative that the City continue to support the arts through the recovery. It was so innovative for the DSO to visit neighborhoods around the city to bring live music into the community. Social distancing has been hard on all of us, and experiencing live music again was a healing balm. It is unfortunate that arts programs and events are the first to be cut in an economic downturn. We need elected officials who understand that many people work in the arts, and we need to make sure that this industry stays healthy for the good of our city.

It's also important to bring the arts into our city parks, either with traveling art exhibits or music. Many parks across the city of Dallas have pavilions or other venues where live music concerts can be held. The Hillcrest Village Green in District 12 is a great candidate for this type of program. The Sandy Greyson Pavilion is perfect for hosting many of these events in this new park: Family First Fridays can focus on family and child-friendly art activities, and Third Thursday events can feature theatre or music productions. We have the space and the audience, we just need the Council to move forward with these ideas.

Q6

EQUITY AND NEIGHBORHOODSThe 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

It is paramount to ensure fair access to the arts. Because District 12 is so far removed from the traditional cultural centers of Dallas, I would be extremely interested to attract pop-up cultural centers in Far North Dallas. Whether these pop-up exhibits are held in our Public Libraries or in our Recreation Centers, it would be an asset to our community to host these events. Once the pandemic wanes, I propose that the City explore leasing space in one of District 12's strip shopping centers to host these types of events. Much like the Bookmarks Library in Northpark brings the joy of reading to thousands of mall visitors a year, I think having a dedicated cultural space in Far North Dallas would make art more accessible to a more diverse group of people.

Q7

PARTICIPATIONThe 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?

Yes, I fully commit to attending art and cultural programs. My husband and I are raising our girls to love and appreciate the arts, and we regularly attend cultural events both individually and as a family. Visiting organizations to learn more about them and highlight their work would be a wonderful experience. The honor would be all mine.
