



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: David Blewett

2. COUNCIL DISTRICT: District #14

3. 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? **Musicals, Modern Dance and Ballet.***
- *Are your family members involved in the arts? **I have five daughters. One writes poetry and enjoys drawing/painting. Another is a dancer and was just accepted to Booker T. Washington to continue dancing.***
- *Share favorite cultural experience in the last two years? **Beginning the process of designing what the Kalita Humphreys Theater can be.***
- *What virtual arts programs have you and your family enjoyed during the pandemic? **Sadly none beyond my daughter's online performances.***

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?

As the elected #D14 Councilman with the majority of the Arts assets in Dallas...I have advocated to expand and update the Arts District, advocated for CARES Act funding for the Arts and preserved city funding for the Arts this past budget cycle.

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?

Next year's budget will be challenging. I will protect our Arts institutions' funding.

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.

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.

I think pop-up arts events throughout the city are an economical way to share art. I also think Art that speaks to the differing cultures in our society is a critical component.

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?

Pre-covid I was set to attend the Latino Cultural Center. I was able to attend one musical at the Music Hall. I supported, attended and opened the Authorized Hearings to expand the Arts District. Which Council then later passed. And I visited the Company at the Dallas Black Dance Theater to tour and observe a class. I would continue to pop in to various presentations.

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.