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COMPLETE

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Q1

NAME:

Chad West

Q2

District 1

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?

There are endless art and cultural opportunities in Dallas! I'm especially proud of some of our smaller opportunities in Oak Cliff, such as Oak Cliff Dance and Color Me Empowered, of which my children participate regularly. During the pandemic, we regularly participated in online experiences through the Office of Arts & Culture, including using the at-home art kits as part of our nightly routine. Prior to the pandemic, I was a regular attendee of many Dallas events in the Arts District, downtown and in Oak Cliff.

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?

I helped pull together the team that is working on a Cultural Arts District designation for North Oak Cliff, and I worked with city staff to procure more money for the Oak Cliff Cultural Center for additional programming during the pandemic. I support funding arts and culture in the budget and will continue to work closely with the District 1 arts commissioner.

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?

Yes. Our city's arts and culture are critical to our residents, tourism, youth, jobs and future. During the 2020-21 budget discussions, I joined the small majority of councilmembers who advocated for additional funding for arts and cultural programs, including additional funding for the Bishop Arts Theater (which I spearheaded). I will continue to advocate for funding to the arts in the budget, support local creatives as a patron and encourage others to do the same.

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

When the city was developing the Cultural Plan, Dallas residents were invited to share where they saw art in Dallas. Despite these meetings being in different parts of the city, many responded by placing indicators in the same parts of Dallas, miles away from where they may have lived. We need to have spaces across the city — in all districts in a variety of neighborhoods — for creatives to practice their crafts.

Murals are a wonderful opportunity to transform a space into a slice of culture for an area — whether that's an underpass on columns or on a blank wall. And when we utilize those spaces, we must do so by hiring local talent to do the creating.

It's critical we celebrate diversity in every aspect of arts and culture -- we must encourage our arts groups to employ ALAANA creatives and to have programs accessible to people throughout the city.

The pandemic pushed artists to be even more creative with events such as musical performances in front yards of homes. The kinds of pop-up events can be both geographically convenient and financially accessible, and you bring neighbors together along the way. Our creatives need more space, and it should be affordable. We shouldn't cultivate creatives in the halls of Booker T. for them to leave Dallas because they can't afford to live here.

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?

Absolutely! My family and I enjoy a variety of programs in the city, and I'm happy to work with any organization.
