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COMPLETE

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**Q1**

NAME:

Lakolya London

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**Q2**

**District 8**

COUNCIL DISTRICT

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**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?

I am not involved in the Arts myself but my son is apart of the Arts family at Wilma Hutchinson High School. I also have 3 family members that were apart of the Arts at Booker T. Washington. My son is a Tenor that sings in the UIL every year. He won a gold medal for the school last year and went to State singing. It is his passion and he has mastered the Starr exam throughout the years of being a student. My son is very much involved and passionate in the Arts and will transition in College to make it a Career.

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**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 will work hard to keep the Arts program alive because there are many upcoming young men and women that will be in the Arts in the future. This has to be here to help keep people that are passionate about the Arts on a path that they choose and like to participate in. It would only be fair to keep this program and give it the respect that the Sports arena gets.

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**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?

I would work hard to get the Art department back operating because of the many of artist whom jobs have been lost. We must get people back to work so their quality of life can come back. The budget will be tough but we must be fair and work to get the Arts department back operating again.

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**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

I would like to have neighborhood performances in District 8 to get more people involved in the Arts. There should be some incentives issued or a grant to keep the Arts on operation. I will work to find some of the funds taken from the police department to help get the Arts back running.

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**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?

I would attend a meeting to make sure that the Arts are getting what they need to stay alive and operating. If no attention is being given to the Arts then it is not fair and things need to change. I will be the Candidate to make sure that the Arts can feel appreciated again and get the jobs back to the people who like to perform and entertain the citizens of Dallas.

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