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Q1

NAME:

Omar Narvaez

Q2

District 6

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?

I enjoy stage productions especially musicals, concerts and plays. I attend art exhibition and love when art fairs are hosted in neighborhoods. I am a financial supporter of Cara Mia, Teatro Dallas, Bishop Arts Theater Center and District 6's own Artstillery. My family is involved in the arts from performing, painting, singing, sculpting and acting.

I have had the distinct pleasure of attending many arts and culture events over the past two years even during this pandemic virtually. I would have to say my favorite was when I had the opportunity to make my Broadway debut in Hairspray as a guest actor during the production at the AT&T PAC. Those 2-3 minutes on stage with all the professional actors in the show was a true highlight and treat for me and my family that got to attend. Virtually we have watched Hamilton on Disney+, we attended the Holiday Light Show produced in Fabrication Yard, watched many ballet and opera's on Youtube and through the British Broadcasting Network that were shared. We attended virtual tours of many museums and art exhibitions virtually.

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 had the distinct honor of helping shepherd the current Arts and Culture Plan across the finish line while on council, and helped champion the conversation at the council to increase the percentage of Hotel Occupancy Tax that would be given to the Arts and stayed committed to getting it to 15%. I also championed and was able to pass the expansion of the Latino Cultural Center with the new black box theater and helped Cara Mia and Teatro Dallas become resident companies at the LCC. I have also advocated for more performance space across Dallas for our medium to small size organizations. I have also worked with our large arts organizations to bring arts and culture into West Dallas like AT&T PAC, Dallas Summer Musicals and Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Building these new relationships has been extremely beneficial to the residents of District 6.

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?

Easy answer, ABSOLUTELY! We can not recover economically without our Arts and Culture stakeholders and performers.

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

I am a huge promoter of murals in D6. We have Fabrication Yard which is a graffiti art space for everyone to express their work as they like. We also supported the new murals underneath the I-30 overpass at Sylvan which was painted and designed by a local artist. We try to also bring an arts and culture element to every event that we host in D6. The Benito Juárez Day event at the park for the same namesake we bring in Anita Martinez Ballet Folklorico, local rap competition, and Artstillery supported us by creating a 10 minute performance piece they also directed for our youth program to perform during the event. I am currently working on an RFP to also bring a new space into D6 that will support many smaller organizations with performance and practice space as well as office space. Equity in the Arts was a pillar I strongly championed when we wrote the Dallas Cultural Plan. I am extremely proud to have gotten this accomplished and that I am a part of helping make this pillar be implemented.

I even help by keeping a gallery of art in my office with the theme Art Across District 6. These are photos, sculptures, drawings, even some finger paintings, and some native beadwork and Asian Art. The only rule is that the pieces must be about District 6 or by a District 6 artist.

We hosted pre-Covid a youth art gallery where youth produced photos, drawings, poems etc and we placed it on our "gallery wall" for one month and invited them to come see their work exhibited. We have also done the same with our senior program at the West Dallas Multipurpose Center and also brought them to City Hall to see their exhibition.

We plan to do more of this once City Hall opens again post pandemic.

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 will commit to continuing my attendance to local programs, performances, exhibitions, and classes as I have done over the last four years since I have been in office. I have also stopped in to say hello and attend DACAC events over the last several years. I am 100% committed during my first two terms and that will continue going into my next term.
