



### ARTS & CULTURE QUESTIONNAIRE FOR CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Please take a moment to answer the DACAC Arts & Culture Questionnaire for City Council Candidates. Be as thorough as possible as these responses will be shared not only with the general membership, but also with the public and posted in its entirety online at DallasNeedstheArts.com. Provide your answers in the space indicated; space will automatically adjust to accommodate your complete answers.

Please return these completed questionnaires to [AVD@ArtsDallas.org](mailto:AVD@ArtsDallas.org) as soon as possible. Thank you!

#DallasNeedstheArts #ArtsVoteDallas #TXArtsMatter

#### YOU AND THE ARTS

*Give us a sense about your relationship with the arts.*

**QUESTIONS:** Is there an arts genre or form you particularly enjoy, and what is it? What arts and cultural events or performances have you attended in the last year? What arts organizations or commissions have you supported as a Board member, volunteer, contribution or season ticket holder. Please list cultural groups and experiences, even if not in Dallas.

I love the arts! My favorites are live music, live theatre, visual arts, movies, and diverse festivals. In the past year, I have attended the symphony at the Meyerson, several high school band performances, live theater performances at the Winspear (Bronx Tale), Rover DramaWerks in Plano (Bus Stop), McFarlin Auditorium (Martin Short), the Plano International Festival (although much of it was rained out this year) and several concerts of the Texas A&M Symphonic Band (my son was a principal trumpet). We have visited the Dallas Museum of Art, Nasher Sculpture Garden, Dallas Heritage Village, and Crow Museum this year. Before we had children, my husband and I were season ticket holders for Dallas Summer Musicals.

I have led several community beautification projects that include playground stenciling and was a speaker at the City of Dallas Planning and Urban Design All Things Beautification Workshop in March 2019. My session was about enhancing underutilized concrete, asphalt, and sidewalk space to benefit kids, families, and neighborhoods.

I took private art lessons until age 13. I won a visual art contest in high school, along with several ribbons for other entries. I served 3 years on the Plano Symphony Advisory Board to promote arts education in Plano schools.

My children were performers with Plano Children’s Theater for many years and I was involved in set builds, costume sourcing, ticket sales, make-up, and fundraising. All of my children play multiple instruments and have taken private piano lessons, been members of the school band, orchestra, and jazz band and we have supported the band by loading equipment, helping size uniforms, and chaperoning events. My niece is a senior at Booker T. Washington and we have attended many of her theater performances. My cousin is a professional artist in California and has had exhibits at the Dahlia Wood Gallery in Dallas and I have a collection of his works at my home. My brother-in-law is a professional musician and sound engineer having worked on major documentaries, Nickelodeon TV shows, and record albums for Barbra Streisand and others of note. I have visited art museums all over the US and Europe.

#### ADVOCACY

*The role of an elected leader is in large part being a cheerleader for the City of Dallas and the things that make our city special. Dallas mayors such as Annette Strauss and Mike Rawlings, and former Councilmember Veletta Lill understood the importance of the arts to the city’s economic development, tourism, vibrancy, cultural brand and quality of life. (See attached one-pager.) They made the arts a centerpiece of their agenda and legacy.*

**QUESTION:** What role do you envision for yourself as an elected Dallas leader when it comes to the arts? Where will arts and culture fit within your priorities? And what are the ways you would advocate for the arts in and out of Dallas?



The best thing about Dallas is the people. We're lacking in geographic vistas and attractions but we've got plenty of talent. I would love to see Dallas become the premier destinations for arts engagement. People long for original and thoughtful art and Dallas could become a destination city for those seeking to be wowed.

Even more than that, people need arts in their everyday life. Dallas has long strived to be taken seriously and be "cool," but has missed the opportunity to bring real joy, discovery, and inspiration to its people. From street art to festivals, galleries to work/learn space, I am committed to enhancing the arts in Dallas.

I am a strong arts education advocate. Our children need the arts to fully develop and every child deserves a strong arts education. Too many children will grow up and never see or experience a live opera or symphony if they are not exposed to it through school experiences. Many children find their passion and genius through the arts and we should encourage everyone to use their talents to bring beauty and depth to our lives.

#### **EQUITY**

*The 2018 Dallas Cultural Plan – just approved **unanimously** by the City Council – placed Equity at the top of priorities for the arts. This includes equity in funding, providing cultural experiences in underserved parts of our city, supporting both the new and emerging arts community as well as our historic institutions. Additional resources will be required to reach this goal.*

**QUESTION:** Given the many needs of the city, how will you support the goal of sustaining and growing the City's current investment in the arts, and ensure the Cultural Plan does not gather dust on the shelf?

I am so excited there is actually a plan to develop the arts in Dallas. With such widespread input and support, nothing could be worse than engaging the community and then doing nothing. Additional resources to support this plan should come from a larger share of the hotel occupancy tax.

#### **HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX**

*To help fund its implementation, the Cultural Plan calls for an increase in the arts portion of the City's Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) to align with peer cities. HOT funds are paid by tourists, not Dallas taxpayers. Currently, 2.6% is dedicated to the arts (about \$1.6M.) Houston is 19%, San Antonio is 11%, Austin is 15%.*

**QUESTION:** Would you support a *significant* increase of the arts portion of the HOT to create and sustain a major cultural tourism marketing program, repairs and maintenance of neglected cultural venues, and increased support for arts programs that add to the cultural vibrancy and attractiveness of Dallas as a destination?

Yes, I fully support using a much larger portion of the hotel occupancy tax to create and sustain cultural tourism, repair and maintain cultural venues, and provide additional arts programming. Given the audit with VisitDallas, I would support ending that contract by giving the required 60 day notice and using the HOT funds for the arts and other appropriate priorities until a new RFP is released and awarded. We have allowed our cultural venues to fall into disrepair and we must take care of these facilities as soon as possible before they deteriorate further. I support normalizing the arts funding from HOT to a percentage that supports the cultural plan. I do not think we should be constricted by what other cities are doing. We need a bold approach to accomplishing our goals.

#### **ARTS IN YOUR DISTRICT**



Name three areas of your council district where you think arts and cultural programs and experiences are most needed and would be welcomed the most.

Our district is sadly lacking in the arts and I would love to change that.

Most needed AND most welcomed:

1. We need space for local artists to work
2. Galleries that double as community venues (Mercado369 in North Dallas)
3. Educational facilities for students of all ages
4. Every day art in the district - crosswalks and sidewalks painted to encourage walking and fitness, concrete walls painted with iconic art for selfies, sculpture, painted mail boxes and dumpsters.
5. Live-work-teach-learn-display building for artists
6. Indoor and outdoor venues for live music
7. Small stage theater

*Please return completed questionnaire to [AVD@ArtsDallas.org](mailto:AVD@ArtsDallas.org) as soon as possible.*

*Join us for a Candidate Reception for all Mayoral and City Council Candidates at The Perot on 4/29 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM*