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Q1

NAME:

Adam Bazaldua

Q2

District 7

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 met my wife in choir in high school, and we both enjoy musical theater — something we miss most after this past year. Over the past two years, we really enjoyed seeing Dear Evan Hansen and haven't stopped listening to the soundtrack since. Thanks to Dallas Theater Center, we were able to see American Mariachi virtually last year.

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?

Funding for arts programming was on the chopping block for this FY budget, and I led the charge to keep the arts fully funded as originally budgeted to lighten the pandemic hit on our partners. I will continue to work with the arts community and advocate for funding in the budget for arts and culture.

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. While no organization predicted we'd be where we are, our artists have shown resilience, and we have to return that with our support. Arts and culture must be part of the conversation when we talk about Dallas — inside and outside the city. We don't need big developments to make Dallas a "world-class city." We have that caliber of creatives right here in Dallas. Other cities do a better job at promoting themselves to potential travelers with their arts and culture; Dallas can and should step up its game in marketing its local talent.

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

Equity is thankfully part of the discussion in a variety of topics at the city, and it was constant when we were developing the Cultural Plan in 2017 and 2018. Art should be for all — people should have the space and allowance to create, and people should be able to have access to it while artists receive support.

We must encourage people to create and while doing so, we cannot turn our heads to our city-wide issue of affordable housing. I think it's incredibly important to bring affordable housing into all parts of the district to help serve working-class families who work in Dallas, be able to afford to live in Dallas.

Murals are a great opportunity to bring a space to life — when we have the opportunity to have murals, we should employ local talent, not call outside of the city.

The city can work with arts groups to engage all people in their groups — whether that's calling for ALAANA artists or making programs more accessible.

We have lots of artists, and we have many spaces — yet for some reason we have too many artists who don't have space for their crafts. One tool the city has introduced is spacefinderdallas.com, something it had considered for years and launched just before the pandemic hit. It allows people to find rentable spaces for rehearsals, exhibitions, screenings, readings and more.

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?

Yes, my wife and I love attending local programs, and we're excited to get back to that normal. We love kid-friendly events, to further expose our daughter to the arts, but equally enjoy our kid-free date nights, as well.