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Q1

NAME:

Paul Ridley

Q2

District 14

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 was a series ticket holder of the DSO and a season ticket holder of the Dallas Theater Center and Theatre 3 for many years. As an architect I have also been interested in Dallas' architectural icons and the visual arts and served as a docent at the DMA for several years. I was also a member of the 500, Inc.

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 support and will advocate for the city's Office of Arts and Culture in its funding of arts organizations and will work to make funds available for deferred maintenance of city-owned arts venues.

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. As soon as arts organizations are able to reopen, I will request that Visit Dallas advertise that fact in order to bring back cultural tourism. With City (and federal) support, arts organizations can resume their important role in Dallas' economy.

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 will suggest that the Office of Arts and Culture coordinate its efforts with the city's Office of Equity & Inclusion to ensure emphasis is placed on equitable access to the arts. Such collaboration could produce huge dividends by using the leverage of city funding. I would like to see popup cultural events and neighborhood arts performances in my district to enliven the quality of life that exposure to the arts brings.

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. I very much enjoy attending arts programming and have a record of regular attendance at the venues listed above. I will also make myself available to meet with their management to discuss their needs and concerns.
