



### 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](http://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.

Being married to an architect, our family enjoys all types of art-from buildings to sculptures. My artistic preference is dance and all of its different forms, as I was dancer for 6 years as a young adult. As former season ticket holders to the Broadway Series, my oldest son and I used that as time to spend with one another because I believe it is important for our youth to experience the arts. We have attended many events in Dallas-Command Performance, Dallas Summer Musicals, Broadway Series, plays, museums both in our city or when we visit other cities.

While I served in the mayor's office, I was part of the initiative that created an Arts Week which has now become an Arts Month. Also, we worked to bring more support from our corporations to the arts through Business Council for the Arts. While at the school district, I strengthened our partnership with Big Thought to bring more arts to our students throughout the district.

#### 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?

We know arts can play a significant role in lives, and as a city we have embraced that concept by our many champions on council, our fabulous venues and our artistic community. While working with Mayor Rawlings, I worked alongside of him on his arts initiatives because I know it is important to our city and the quality of life of our residents. If I am elected, I will be a strong advocate for the arts and will work with staff to ensure the Cultural Plan is implemented and funded. I will continue to make sure arts and the non-profits that support the arts are in our schools, libraries and recreation centers. I will encourage smaller venue performances in our black box theatres throughout our city so our neighborhoods can experience performances within their own community. We need to use art as a way to improve quality of life with in our city!



## 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?

Yes I will support the goal of sustaining and growing investments in the arts. We cannot let another plan sit on the shelf; many individuals spent many hours working on this plan and as thorough as it is, the city should use it as a guide to grow and strengthen our arts and cultural community. Many international cities have a thriving arts community and with all of our venues and artists, Dallas should strive to be the top one.

## 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 would support significant increased funding to the arts because when done correctly, a marketing plan will add to our city coffers with tourism dollars and spurring our economy. Plus it will help smaller art venues with repairs and maintenance that tend to get pushed to the next year for lack of funding. If we invest in our arts community, we will see a significant ROI.

## 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.

We have some great shopping centers within the district that are being revitalized such as Casa View, Hillside Village and Casa Linda plus our parks like Harry Stone and White Rock Lake that would be great places for public art.

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