

Dallas Area Cultural Advocacy Coalition  
Candidate Survey  
City of Dallas Elections 2017

Candidate Name/Address/Phone (please include your email address and your website address):

Name: Gail Terrell Phone 214-374-6304

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What Elective office are you running for? Dallas City Council, District 8

Please attach a resume to this survey and return your completed survey to:

Dallas Area Cultural Advocacy Coalition  
3630 Harry Hines Blvd.,  
Dallas, TX 75219

Or fax to 214/522-9174 to the Attention of DACAC **Please return by April 12, 2017**  
You can download electronic copy: [www.dallasneedsthearts.com](http://www.dallasneedsthearts.com) and email it through the website

1. What Arts events or performances have you attended in the past year and what Arts organizations or commissions have you served as a Board Member, Volunteer, Contributor, or Season Ticket holder? Please list all cultural groups even if not in Dallas and how you participated.

I attended the following arts events or performances the past year:

- a. Ragtime
- b. USA Film Festival Kiddies' Film and 2017 co-chair USAFF Kid Film
- c. USAFF Premiere 'A United Kingdom'
- d. TBAAL – Events Featuring: Wynton Marsalis and Will Downing
- e. African American Museum – Motown in DTown
- f. The book signing:
  - Anna Kang
  - Eric Litwin
  - Beth Ferry
  - Tom Litchenheld
- g. TBAAL – Ties and Tux Banquet
- h. Dallas Symphony Orchestra at Paul Quinn College
- i. Political lobbying for Arts Organizations
- j. Dart's Public Art Committee for Camp Wisdom and UNT-D Stations

I currently serve on the board of the USAFilmFestival and Co-Chaired the 2017 USAFF Kid Film. I was the Vice President of the Dallas Park and Recreation Board. I am a member of the Friends of Dallas Parks.

2. The City of Dallas currently allocates more than twenty million dollars from the general fund to support City-owned arts facilities and also to directly fund programs for more than one hundred and fifty arts organizations throughout the City. Knowing that strong arts programs can improve the quality of life and neighborhoods, boost educational outcomes and be under economic drivers and job creators, how would you propose to honor the City's obligations and also increase the investment the City of Dallas makes in the arts? How do you view the role of public funding from the City of Dallas in promoting participation in the arts among your constituents?

I served on OCA for eight years. I understand the battle to maintain current funding levels for Arts programs. However, the political reality is Arts funding will be under great pressure to maintain its current funding level in the next budget because of the pension and lawsuits the city will be facing.

I will fight to maintain current funding levels with an increase to offset inflation.

The funding for Arts programming south of I-30 is inadequate. The funding for arts programming south of Loop 12 is dismal. I have long advocated for more neighborhood based art programming. I know students with promising talent but was unable to develop their talent to its potential because of the lack of affordable venues to develop their craft.

3. Corporate relocations to the Dallas area are highly desirable to grow our economy and add jobs. How would you integrate the arts into your strategy for attracting corporate relocations?

I will ask all organizations/departments senior managers responsible for tourism, the Regional Chamber of Commerce and the city staff to meet and review all of the materials and presentations used to market our city. The review will give me a clear picture of how the arts are being presented to corporate managers. We will talk about any changes or emphasis that needs to be made relative to the arts.

We know from hard experience that arts play a major role in the decision matrix of corporations considering relocation. Our city lost a major company to Chicago because of the lack of amenities including arts venues.

4. How important is Cultural Tourism to the development of our economy and what is your strategy to increase cultural tourism for our City?

In addition to the review discussed in response three, I will ask our city staff how important cultural tourism is to the growth of the city's economy. Understanding what the city staff's view of cultural tourism as an engine for growth is important in determining the strategy to move the tourism needle.

5. How do you define Cultural Equity, is it a priority for you, and how would you help Dallas become a more culturally equitable city?

My working definition of cultural equity is the per capita distribution of arts funding.

No, southern Dallas is not receiving its appropriate share of arts funding. Partly, due to the lack of arts infrastructure, such as, black box stages, art studios, remove Booker T and what do we have to nurture young talent? A suggestion, maybe to follow the business model of incubating businesses, by providing a building with reasonable rents, common performance space, and office support for emerging groups.

6. How would you balance the need to support the organizations and facilities of the city's larger arts institutions (in and out of the Arts District) with support for the small, midsize, and emerging organizations and individual artists?

How to balance the needs of large and small and medium size organizations is a question of scarcity of resources. The effect on the city budget of legacy organizations and large organizations budget requests leaves a small percentage for all other agencies and individuals. One possible solution maybe to earmark a percentage of the budget to go to small and medium sized organizations and individuals.

7. Do you believe that it's important that arts and culture are experienced throughout the entire city? How do you plan to bring arts and culture to areas of Dallas that do not have access to the arts? Name three areas of your council district where you think arts and cultural programs and experiences are most needed now.

Three areas that arts and cultural programs are needed now are: Hidden Valley/Runyon Springs, Highland Hills and Pleasant Grove. I will fight for increased funding for underserved areas in southern Dallas. Just as important, I will try to convince a coalition of my peers to support increased arts funding to underserved areas.

8. Are you familiar with the City of Dallas - Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) funding programs and what changes, improvements or other innovations would you recommend for OCA Programs?

Yes, I am familiar with the City of Dallas – Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA), I served as a Commissioner for eight years.

OCA is one of the most underfunded agencies in the City of Dallas. As a result, there is little funding left to fund neighborhood arts programming and projects.

9. What's your opinion on bringing together City, Corporate, and Foundation sources in our community to leverage more resources for arts and culture and also achieve equity for small and midsize organizations and individual artists?

Corporate and foundation support must be greatly expanded, if smaller organizations are to have an opportunity to develop and grow. I would be an aggressive advocate for small organizations to corporations and foundations. Additionally, I will be willing to attend planning meetings and funding proposal presentations.

10. The City of Dallas has invested significant resources to the acquisition and development of Public Art including sculptures, murals, paintings, and other art works in our public spaces. What opinions or suggestions do you have regarding the Public Art Program?

Where is our public art in District 8?

Why doesn't Miller Family Park have public art?

Who knows where Miller Family Park is located or its significance to Dallas history?

Public art would help put the focus on cultural tourism and southern Dallas. and

Funding programs such as the Neighborhood Touring Program

11. The current needs inventory to address a serious level of deferred maintenance, repairs and replacements for City-owned arts facilities totals more than \$186 Million dollars and further delay in addressing these issues will only increase the costs. How would you propose to handle this problem, prioritize the needs, and what kind of plan would you propose to address this issue.

I would not be prioritizing anything without the direct input from arts groups, individuals, donors and staff. A list of priorities will be developed after discussions to reach a consensus. We all will have ownership in the final product.

12. Crime in our City continues to be an issue that we are all concerned about. What role, if any, do you think the arts can play in crime prevention strategies?

Effective arts programs should be a component of a crime preventive program. Summer programs for youth, neighbor sponsored graffiti programs are a few examples.

13. If elected, you will appoint representatives to a variety of boards and commissions. What criteria will you use to select appointees and specifically, what would be your requirements for your appointee to the City of Dallas, Cultural Affairs Commission?

I have one requirement; the appointee should have a demonstrated sustained interest in expanding arts in underserved areas of our community

Thank you for your careful consideration of the questions in our survey. We hope you will attend the Candidate Reception at the Perot Museum on May 1, 2017. We will send an invitation soon.