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COMPLETE

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**Q1**

NAME:

Da'On Boulanger-Chatman

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**Q2**

**District 13**

COUNCIL DISTRICT

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**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 am an avid performer in the Dallas area. I sing regularly with the Dallas Symphony Chorus. I am also a cantor for West Presbyterian Church located on Devonshire. Lastly, I am a high school choir director and department chair for visual and performing arts at Lakeview Centennial in Garland.

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**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?

Being an avid performing artist, I will bring real-life experience of not only performing but more so the impact of how what we artists do is important to our cultural way of life and exchange of customs, expression, and language. The arts break barriers! I will be the voice in the room and on committees to make sure our city can hear of the great things the arts are doing in our city, and to develop more ways to infuse the many visual and performing arts opportunities into more connection with our Dallas communities.

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**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?

I will aim to be a part of the committee for Quality of Life, Arts, and Culture. I will work on or with this committee to ensure that the agendas are executed and the funds are allocated towards arts implementation in Dallas. I will also use my experience as a performer and teacher to make sure we are exploiting all of the possible avenues there are to incorporate the arts into our community. One example could be, working with local schools and their elective programs to showcase our students' artistic talents.

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**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

We live in a large district that offers a diverse pallet from which to create and showcase. I would love to see the arts help beautify the Vickery Meadow area and its new constructions like the Vickery Park Library.

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**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, I would even be open to performance opportunities!

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