



## 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. 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.

Dance, theatre, concerts. I have attended multiple events where my teenage daughter performed, attended a few concerts, went to a play. I support my daughters dance & theatre activities.

### 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?

District 5 is significantly lacking in arts / cultural activities, ironic that D5 map is on page 25 of your plan. D5 needs to expand and implement more activities at the library which has a black box. I would like to see sound proof rooms w basic recording studio. I would like to see regular activities at community center or parks with dance (various types- open lessons for salsa, bachata, line dancing, etc.), art for various ages finger painting / easel, opportunities to develop and showcase talent, interactive acting exercises, keep it simple to access, low-cost, engaging, FUN. I will advocate for these types of activities and others the community raises as viable options which promote equity & diversity while supporting artists.

### 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?



Read it- done. Meet with city staff / DACAC members to identify ways to practically implement, learning what if any implementation plans already exist for D5. If none, get it going with deadlines. Engage with community on the types of arts & cultural events they would like to see and will support. Identify existing talent pool in district and find out how they are using their talent and what support they need to share it.

#### 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?

Honestly, I would need to see the big picture, learn more on how these funds are distributed and for what. The figures you provide are concerning, I'd like to understand why, is funding coming from a different fund, why is the % so low as compared to comparable cities. I want to know why, see the data, look at ways to redistribute those funds in a responsible manner.

#### 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.

Music- lessons on musical instruments, I only know of one place this is available, Case Linda Church on Monday nights.

Vocal- choir, I have attended lots of churches in the area, they need help in this area, seriously.

Dance / theatre: we need engaging, fun. Use that black box in the library.

paint- my kids loved filling balloons with paint, strategically pinning them to a canvass and throwing darts- great art! Kids & adults could use some fun painting.

My district has very little engagement, little visibility of the entire family. There is a significant focus to stay “under the radar” due to the current climate, citizenship status. We need to make it safe to enjoy activities as a family in Dallas and provide the venues for this. I know there used to be a lot more activity at the library with the black box. The library manager got moved and those activities died, bring him back- Nico (spelling?). I know he is currently at Dallas library on Hampton, poor use of his skill set & passion.

*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*