

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: \_\_\_ Erik Wilson \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_ 972-944-4134 \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_ P. O. Box 41684 \_\_\_\_\_ Dallas, Texas Zip: \_\_ 75241 \_\_\_\_\_

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What Elective office are you running for? \_ 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 from [www.dallasneedsthearts.com](http://www.dallasneedsthearts.com)

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 have participated and enjoyed numerous arts/cultural events ranging from Arts Week events and discussions, Perot Museum, Dallas Black Dance Theater, AT&T PAC, Bishop Arts Theatre, Dallas Performance Hall Winspear Opera House, Wylie Theatre, African American Museum, and Latino Cultural Center events.
  
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 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 feel that it is necessary to increase and support public and private partnerships in the art community. Our art budget is limited so it is extremely important to leverage our

access to partnerships that will enhance creation/expression of art on all levels. Public funding should be used to make art available to all neighborhoods and citizens.

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?
  - The arts should be incorporated into all relocation packages as an asset for corporations to provide perks for employees and naming opportunities for facilities/events. It should be marketed to employees as a tool for education and cultural awareness opportunities for families.
  
4. How important is Cultural Tourism to the development of our economy and what is your strategy to increase cultural tourism for our City?
  - I believe it is an important part of the city's overall tourism model. It should be marketed as a place of destination for individuals or groups to experience when in town. Our art community should be a part of our city's marketing plan.
  
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?
  - It is ensuring that all cultures voices and expressions are fairly represented in education, performance, funding, and facilities in a comprehensive art program. I am a big supporter of expanding more art opportunities for small and medium to expand their presence in communities and in the arts district.
  
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?
  - In my opinion, funding is key but it is always a challenge to support both entities. I would also like to see increased programming packages with small-medium, or medium-large organizations offers options to season ticket holders, and mini packages to give greater exposure to both organizations.
  
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.
  - Yes, I believe arts and culture should be experienced throughout the city. I have been advocating for more black box theatres in the southern Dallas. In District 8 the three areas are in Red Bird, Pleasant Grove, and Kleberg-Rylie that I believe should have an

enhance arts and cultural experience. This will give artist an opportunity to engage an underserved audience and expose communities to art that would not travel downtown the arts district.

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. I would like to see more inclusive exposure to the minority cultures found in Dallas, like the International Film Festival. I would like to see more inclusive films featuring African, Asian, Latino centered films. I noticed last year the lack of inclusion of cultural representation of films.
  
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?
  - I am in full support of this idea as the city is limited in funds and any public-private partnerships that will help to leverage arts participation is welcomed.
  
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?
  - I support public art being displayed throughout Dallas in communities and public spaces. I have suggested that we create public display squares throughout the city where public art pieces would rotate in the designated areas to expose more art to the public.
  
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 propose that this issue be handled through both city general budget, art community revenues, and city bond programs. There should be estimated amounts budgeted for both preventive and normal maintenance needs combined with some type of fee from all arts and cultural organizations. Also, we should consider facility usage and design to try and find best use of performances by organizations.
  
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?

- Crime is an issue in our city. The arts community can play a role in partnering up with law enforcement and community organizations to provide art and cultural opportunities to underserved children. This can provide healthy and creative alternatives for children to be engaged in productive programs that produce positive output.

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?

- If re-elected I will appoint an independent thinker that has an appreciation for inclusiveness in all art arenas and has ideas that help to create opportunities for everyone to enjoy.

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.