

Robert Gallegos

1. Do you have an Arts & Culture policy plan or policy statement?

If so, please send a copy.

As mayor I will build on the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs (MOCA) to make sure the City's Civic Art Program reflects the diversity of our city. I will advocate the importance of continuing the City of Houston's Civic Art Program Equity Review each year. It will give artists in our diverse communities the opportunity to be part of our City's Civic Art Program.

2. How do you personally participate in the arts and culture both in Houston and when traveling?

As the district council member representing downtown, I was instrumental in bringing the Dia De Los Muertos Downtown Festival and evening parade to Houston which has been very successful. When traveling I enjoy attending plays and cultural events in the city I am visiting.

3. What specific strategies would your administration undertake to ensure the growth and stability of the creative sector?

My administration will work with Independent School Districts (ISDs) within the city on the importance of art education for public school students to expand their awareness in the arts and culture which will provide a larger base of future artists, patrons and supporters.

4. What opportunities exist for Houston's artists and creative community to work more closely with city departments?

As mayor I would have MOCA work with city departments to encourage artists to be involved in the design and aesthetics of infrastructure projects.

5. The amount of public funding for the arts through grants is currently limited to HOT funds. Would you consider any additional funding mechanisms and if so, please explain?

As mayor I will ask MOCA to work with Management Districts and Tax Increment Reinvestment Zones (TIRZ) to agree to spend a percentage of their funds in cultural districts and/or community assets. I would have my administration push for state Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) funding to be used with the passing of state bill 1057 as an additional funding mechanism.

6. Which recommendations would you prioritize from the FY22 Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs (MOCA) Equity Review?

Changes to the Civic Art Program Selection Process and Program Practices have resulted in more diversity among applicants, panelists, and commission opportunity finalists. Gathering information on race/ethnicity and gender from all artists applicants resulted in more nuanced racial/ethnic and gender representation and broader demonstration of cultural diversity within the Civic Art Collection.