

Candidate's Name: Robert E. Lee (District 3)

**Candidate Questionnaire  
San Diego Regional Arts and Culture Coalition  
December 2007**

- 1. Do you feel that arts and culture is important to the city of San Diego and its citizens? Yes  No \_\_\_**  
**Please comment:** I believe that arts and culture do indeed enrich and inspire us as human beings and, as a Councilmember, I would support City funding of the arts.
- 2. Are you aware of the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture and what it does? Yes  No \_\_\_**
- 3. Do you attend arts or cultural events? Yes  No \_\_\_** Last year over 3.9 million people attended events presented by 80 nonprofit arts and culture organizations funded by the Commission through competitive grants (including 21 music groups, 13 theatres, 10 dance companies, 12 museums, five arts education groups and 16 other cultural groups). What are the last three art or cultural events you attended? (Fundraisers and special events excluded) I like to attend the Symphony, tour the Balboa Park museums, and attend film festivals.
- 4. Are you aware of the source of funding for the Commission? Yes  No \_\_\_** Five years ago the City of San Diego, through its Commission for Arts and Culture, invested one cent of the ten and a half cents of Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) in arts and culture. Will you support restoring and dedicating the City's allocation of one cent of TOT to arts and culture? Yes  No \_\_\_ I certainly believe that arts funding deserves a higher priority than some of the "pork" that fills our City budgets.
- 5. Do you consider San Diego a cultural destination? Yes  No \_\_\_** According to a regional study, San Diego attracts 2.7 million out-of-town travelers annually who make their travel decisions primarily based on the city's broad variety of cultural attractions (organizations with budgets ranging from \$29,000 to \$18 million). Arts and culture are vital to this community and the local economy. What would you do to promote San Diego as a cultural destination? If the one-cent allocation from the TOT is restored for arts and culture, I would expect the Commission to promote our cultural attractions in the way it deems to be most effective.
- 6. Did you participate in visual or performing arts classes in school? Yes  No \_\_\_** Did/do your children? (I have no children.) Unfortunately, most public schools don't have the resources to provide arts education for our young people. What do you see as the role of the arts and cultural community in addressing this issue? I believe that, if the arts and culture community expects to attract adult patrons and "customers", they must introduce the arts to those people early on, when those patrons-to-be are still children, both inside and outside of the schools.

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**7. Do you agree that Balboa Park is an important cultural center for the city? Yes  No**   
**In 2015, San Diego will be celebrating the Centennial of Balboa Park. This will be an opportunity to put San Diego in the national spotlight and on the world map. What is your vision of the importance of this event?** I think the upcoming Centennial anniversary of Balboa Park should do two things: First, it should motivate and energize local and regional residents, organizations and government officials to examine and formulate ways to upgrade and preserve the park. Balboa Park is unquestionably one of the “crown jewels” of the San Diego region. Second, an “improved” Balboa Park should then be heavily promoted as one of the most important attractions we have to draw tourists (and their money) to San Diego.

**8. Have you been involved in efforts to rebuild and sustain museums and cultural institutions in the city? Yes  No**  San Diego is home to a number of very important cultural facilities. How do you plan to protect and sustain the museums and cultural institutions in Balboa Park, the NTC Promenade, Downtown and in our neighborhoods? As I stated above, I am very receptive to restoring the one-cent allocation from TOT to fund our museums, facilities, and cultural institutions. I would also be open to other ideas from the arts and cultural community on this matter, and would give these other ideas serious consideration.

**9. Are you aware of the City’s Public Art Master Plan and what it does? Yes  No**   
Many of the world’s great cities are renowned for their public art. San Diego’s public art includes a range of works from early 20<sup>th</sup> century to contemporary. Name three pieces of public art that you like in the City of San Diego. I very much enjoy the City’s public art at the Balboa Park museums.

**10. Do you consider yourself a supporter of arts and culture both personally and publicly? Yes  No**   
Have you met officials of the arts and cultural organizations located in the district(s) served by the elective office for which you are running? Yes  No   
Which organizations do you or members of your family support? (As an audience member, volunteer, donor, subscriber and/or patron, staff member, board member) I have been an audience member and patron of the Symphony and museums in San Diego and other cities I have previously lived in.

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or

Mail hard copy to:

Young Audiences of San Diego

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***San Diego Regional Arts & Culture Coalition: Mission and Purpose***

- To lobby and advocate for appropriate funding levels for Arts and Culture to support new and ongoing projects throughout San Diego County
- To lobby, advocate and promote the awareness and importance of Arts and Culture throughout San Diego.
- To serve as an information resource entity to benefit all Arts and Culture institutions in San Diego County.