



Texas
Commission
on the Arts

Investing in a Creative Texas

NEWS FROM TCA

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Happy 2015! With the new year, the Texas Commission on the Arts is rolling out a new monthly newsletter! We hope you'll find it helpful and informative. We'd appreciate [your feedback](#) to help us keep the newsletter useful to you.



Participants at the 2013 State of the Arts Conference
Photo: Katherine Staat, White Horse Photography

State of the Arts: Engaging New Audiences Conference January 29-30

Pre-conferences, opening reception, and Texans for the Arts advocacy activities January 28

TCA's State of the Arts: Engaging New Audiences conference is swiftly approaching. Held in Austin at the Sheraton Austin Hotel at the Capitol, the conference provides professional development, skill-building, idea sharing, and networking opportunities for arts administrators and artists. Registration for the conference is \$75 per person.

While the conference proper will kick off Thursday, January 29, TCA is also offering Wednesday afternoon pre-conferences for arts education professionals, college arts administrators, and

cultural district managers. An opening reception with Texas Touring Roster band Brave Combo, sponsored by the Texas Cultural Trust, will be held Wednesday evening. During the same day, Texans for the Arts will hold their Arts Advocacy Day training and activities.

On Thursday, the conference will start with a plenary session featuring Maggie Hartnick and Hil Moss from LaPlaca Cohen, who will present on the findings of Culture Track 2014, the largest national study on the attitudes and behaviors of US cultural consumers. Thursday will conclude with a plenary session from Maxwell L. Anderson, the Eugene McDermott Director o

rt League has involved Houston community members in a large-scale beading project guided by South African artisans. Selven will be joined by Marfa Live Arts board member JD DiFabbio, who led a recent production of Suzanne Bocanegra's "Rerememberer" in Marfa that brought together 50 community members who had never played the violin for the performance. Their experiences in involving community members to make a high-quality artistic work will be moderated by Sixto Wagan, director of the University of Houston's Center for Arts Leadership.

Between plenary sessions, the conference offers a wide variety of skill-building breakout sessions, idea sharing presentations, networking opportunities, and performances by artists new to the Texas Touring Roster. To "walk the walk" of audience engagement during the conference, TCA is bringing in Texas Touring Roster artist Johnny Villarreal and his Edge of Imagination Station, an interactive stop-motion animation lab. Johnny will help conference attendees create their own stop-motion shorts, which will be shown during the conference's closing plenary session. That session will also feature Allison Orr, the artistic director of Forklift Danceworks. Allison has created popular evening-length dance works for (and with) firefighters, electrical linemen, baseball players, and City of Austin Solid Waste Service workers, among others. Her dances have included the equipment (including trucks) used by these professionals and have movingly showcased the talents, pride, and stories of the people she works with.

We expect registration to reach capacity before the conference starts, so don't miss out. Registration, the [conference schedule](#) and [conference speaker information](#) are all on the [conference website](#).

TCA's Next Budget to be Determined in Legislative Session

The 84th Session of the Texas Legislature will begin on Tuesday, January 13. Since the Texas Legislature meets biennially, it will make decisions on two years' worth of State budgeting, including TCA's budget for fiscal year 2016 (September 1, 2015-August 31, 2016) and fiscal year 2017 (September 1, 2016-August 31, 2017). As part of the budget process, TCA filed a Strategic Plan and Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR). The format of the LAR allows TCA to request the amount of its current two-year budget as the Base Appropriations Request, and to ask for additional Exceptional Items as additions to the budget for the coming two years.



Highlights from the Legislative Appropriations Request (available in full [here](#)) include:

Base Appropriations Request: \$13,329,144 over the biennium
Exceptional Items: \$28,024,000 over the biennium (detailed below)

Exceptional Item Detail

According to the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA), Texas ranks 45th out of the 50 states in per capita funding for the arts. Texas spends \$0.21 per capita, as compared to an average of \$1.15 for all state arts agencies. Minnesota leads the states with \$6.31 in per capita arts funding. The Commission seeks the following exceptional items in order to remain competitive with other states in support of economic development through the cultural industries:

- Exceptional Item #1 - Executive Director Salary Increase

TOTAL: \$24,000 over the biennium. The agency's Commissioners have unanimously voted to seek an increase to the authorized salary level for the agency's Executive Director.

- Exceptional Item #2 - Cultural Districts Appropriation

TOTAL: \$20,000,000 over the biennium. TCA has designated 26 unique cultural districts throughout the state as centers that provide economic development and cultural tourism opportunities. Current and future cultural districts are in need of staffing support, infrastructure (signage and capital improvements), marketing budgets, and event underwriting.

- Exceptional Item #3 - Arts Organization Grants for Rural & Veterans Initiatives

TOTAL: \$6,000,000 over the biennium. TCA must expand its programs in rural areas, serve veterans and military families, and serve senior citizens. Additional funds would be used to improve TCA's ability to provide grants and services in these three areas.

- Exceptional Item #4 - Arts Education Grants for School Buses Initiative

TOTAL: \$2,000,000 over the biennium. Budgetary constraints in Texas are affecting school districts' fine arts programs, particularly in those districts serving minority and at-risk populations. TCA funding is essential in helping schools to overcome these challenges in providing arts education for the state's students.

TCA's Legislative Appropriations Request will be considered as part of House Bill 1. After the Legislature convenes on January 13, committee appointments will be made. The House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee will review TCA's LAR and discuss all requested amounts. They may make recommendations that TCA receive less than TCA's Base Appropriations Request, and all, part, or none of any of the Exceptional Item Requests. The Legislative Session will end on June 1, 2015.

Upcoming TCA Opportunities

TCA has several upcoming application deadlines that your organization may be eligible for. As always, the TCA staff is happy to discuss your organization's goals and eligibility to determine which programs are right for you. You may also request that a TCA staff member review your application and provide feedback. Ideally, these requests would be made at least two weeks

before the application deadline.

Grant Program: Arts Respond Project

This program provides project assistance grants to nonprofit arts organizations on a short-term basis and may include administrative costs directly related to the project. Projects must address one of the following priority areas: economic development, education, health & human services, public safety & criminal justice, or natural resources & agriculture.

Activity dates must be: Between April 1, 2015 and August 31, 2015

Application deadline: Midnight on January 15, 2015

Application form: Online

Resources: [grant guidelines](#), [recorded webinar about the application process](#), [contact TCA staff](#)

Designation Program: Cultural District Designation

This program designates special zones in cities and Texas communities that harness the power of cultural resources to stimulate economic development and community revitalization.

Application deadline: Letter of Intent to apply due January 30; application due June 1

Application form: On [Cultural Districts Program page](#)

Resources: [program guidelines](#), [contact TCA staff](#)

Grant Program: Arts Respond Performance Support

This program provides professional artist fees to Texas nonprofits, schools, colleges, and units of government for hiring an artist from the [TCA Touring Roster](#) to do a performance. These applications are funded based on a percentage of contracted fees.

Activity dates must start: Between March 15, 2015 and June 14, 2015

Application deadline: Midnight on February 2, 2015

Application form: Online

Resources: [grant guidelines](#), [contact TCA staff](#)

Grant Program: Arts Create

This program provides multi-year operational support to arts organizations with established cash budgets over \$50,000. Applicants write their grant for a one year period, and if funded, will provide an update for the second year. Depending on the availability of funds, the organization's award amount will be the same for two fiscal years.

Support dates must be: Between September 1, 2015 and August 31, 2016

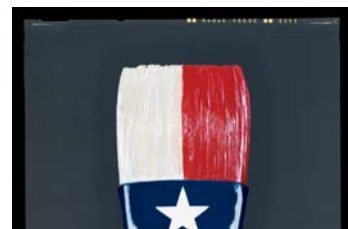
Application deadline: Midnight on March 2 or March 16. **Note: deadline varies depending on organization classification. Your specific deadline will be shown in your online account with TCA.**

Application form: Online

Resources: [grant guidelines](#), [contact TCA staff](#), January 16 webinar about the application process.

Texas Medal of Arts Awards in February

Our friends at the Texas Cultural Trust will announce the recipients of their 2015 Texas Medal of Arts Awards (TMAA) on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington. The afternoon includes a press conference and celebrity hosted luncheon unveiling the Texas legends and rising stars who will be honored on February 25, 2015 in Austin.



Past honorees have included Eva Longoria, Lyle Lovett, Tommy Lee Jones, Debbie Allen, Willie Nelson, Charlie Pride, and Horton Foote. This year's award recipients will be honored at celebration events on Tuesday, February 24, and Wednesday, February 25, at the Long Center for the Performing Arts in Austin. This biennial event, co-chaired by 2013 TMAA Honorees, Gene Jones and Charlotte Jones Anderson, celebrates the state's legendary artists, entertainers, and art patrons with a series of events, including a gala dinner, star-studded awards show, and concert. [Click here](#) to keep up with announcements or purchase event tickets.



New National "Imagine Your Parks" Initiative

"Imagine Your Parks" is a new grant initiative created in partnership by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Park Service to celebrate the intersections between the two agencies in honor of the NEA's 50th anniversary in 2015 and the National Park Service's centennial in 2016. "Imagine Your Parks" will provide an anticipated \$1 million in funding through the NEA Art Works grant category to projects that use the arts to connect people with memorable places and landscapes of the National Park System.

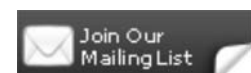
"Imagine Your Parks" will support art projects that encourage the creation of and greater public engagement with art around the National Park System. The National Park System includes not only National Parks, but also national historic sites, trails, rivers, seashores, landmarks and national monuments, heritage areas, preserves, battlefields, recreation areas, and more.

Funding will encourage partnerships with park areas or programs and will also support projects that promote public engagement in urban environments, or that engage younger generations with the National Park System. Projects may take place at and around the National Park System, or may take place elsewhere in the United States with a focus on the work and mission of the National Park Service.

"Imagine Your Parks" is funded through the NEA Art Works grant category. [New Art Works grant guidelines are available at arts.gov](#). Projects in all art disciplines are eligible for consideration for the "Imagine Your Parks" funding. Prospective grantees can join a January 21 [webinar](#) to learn about Art Works applications and guidelines, including the "Imagine Your Parks" opportunity.



Texas Commission on the Arts



<http://www.arts.texas.gov>

The Texas Commission on the Arts receives funding from the Texas State Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Texas: State of the Arts license plate, Target, the Texas Cultural Trust, and Texas Women for the Arts.

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