

NEWS FROM TCA

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The Texas Capitol from the south grounds. Image courtesy of Texas Legislature Online

TCA Receives Funding for Cultural District Grants

Since our last update, House Bill 1, the bill containing the Texas Commission on the Arts' appropriation for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, was reviewed by Governor Abbott during his veto period. As passed by the Senate and House, HB 1 included a rider that provided an additional \$5 million to TCA's annual budget.

Governor Abbott approved the additional \$5 million for fiscal year 2016, but issued a line-item veto on the \$5 million budgeted for fiscal year 2017. His explanatory note to the line-item veto reads, "A fiscally conservative approach to governing requires limiting the rate of growth in state spending. Funding for cultural tourism grants would be substantially increased from \$1.3 million in FY 2014-2015 to \$11.3 million in FY 2016-2017. I therefore object to and disapprove of one year of this appropriation." Even without the vetoed amount, the addition of the new \$5 million for Cultural District grants is a significant increase to TCA's budget and its capacity to impact cultural tourism in the state.

The new funds are specifically for cultural tourism grants and would allow TCA to offer a grant

program for designated Cultural District marketing, infrastructure, and events. The new funds will be added to TCA's base appropriation, which is budgeted at \$13 million over the next biennium, in line with TCA's budget for the current biennium.

The legislation stipulates that the amount provided to TCA would first need to be certified by the Texas Comptroller as generated by Cultural Districts in Texas. TCA staff is working with Texas Comptroller staff to determine the way that the funds would be certified. TCA is currently developing grant program guidelines and deadlines around the funding for Cultural Districts.

The Texas Commission on the Arts is excited about this opportunity to better address the arts' impact on tourism and the state's economy through the Cultural Districts program, and grateful for the support of legislators and arts advocates toward this effort.

TCA Grant Opportunities and Updates

Upcoming Grant Deadline

TCA has updated the **Arts Respond Performance Support** application form and posted it online. Organizations wishing to apply for the next deadline for this program, August 3, 2015, may work on their online applications now. 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.

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

Activity dates must start: Between September 1, 2015 and December 14, 2015

Application deadline: Midnight on August 3, 2015

Application form: Online

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



2015 Texas Poet Laureate
Dr. Carmen Tafolla

Texas State Artists added to Texas Touring Roster

Texas' 2015 and 2016 State Artists have now been added to the Texas Touring Roster. This means that Texas organizations can apply for an Arts Respond Performance Support grant for a portion of the fees that **Jimmie Vaughan, Joe Ely, Dr. Carmen Tafolla, Laurie Ann Guerrero, Vincent Valdez, Dornith Doherty, Margo Sawyer, or Dario Robleto** would charge for in-person work like a performance, workshop, or lecture-demo. The Texas State Artists are listed on the Texas Touring Roster [here](#).

Arts Respond Project Deadline Reminder

Arts Respond Project grant applications are next due July 15, 2015. Guidelines for Arts Respond Project grants are [here](#). Panel comments, scores, and recommended funding amounts will be posted in applicants' online accounts in August (TCA will send an email to alert applicants when this is done). Funding decisions on both the Arts Respond Performance Support applications and the Arts Respond Project applications will be made at the September 2 Commission meeting.

Arts Create Update

If your organization applied for the **Arts Create** grant program for the March 1 or 15 deadline, nine discipline-specific panels met in Austin between April 27 and May 21 to review and score these grant applications. You can call the program staff to get your numerical panel score now. Panel comments, scores, and recommended funding amounts will be posted in your online account in August (TCA will send an email to alert applicants when this is done). Funding decisions on Arts Create applications will be made at the September 2 Commission meeting. If you have any questions, please contact our program staff for help (scroll to the bottom of [this page](#) to see artistic discipline assignments by staff member).

Free Professional Development Webinars



Dayron J. Miles will expand on the influential presentation he gave at TCA's conference.

If you missed the Public Relations and Crisis Management webinar we offered with David Wyatt on June 17, good news! All of our new professional development webinars are recorded and available on our [Professional Development Vimeo channel](#) for free.

Our next live webinar will be August 19 and will cover diversity with **Dayron J. Miles**, Manager of Community and Audience Engagement at the **Dallas Theater Center**. Stay tuned for a specific email that gives information about registering for the webinar. As always, if you can't attend the live webinar, a recording will be available on the Professional Development Vimeo channel afterward.

New Arts & Digital Literacy Institute

TCA's friends at the Texas Cultural Trust are convening their first Arts & Digital Literacy Institute. The Arts & Digital Literacy initiative is a project-based fine arts curriculum for high school students that bridges the gap between fine arts education and technology instruction, and establishes the connection between traditional arts education and digital media.

Held August 4-6, 2015 at Round Rock High School, the Institute will provide intensive training and professional development on all Arts & Media Communications courses, a suite of innovative courses that teach digital literacy through the fine arts. The courses create learning experiences that develop students' capacities for critical thinking, creativity, imagination, and innovation. The curriculum is designed to develop students' media literacy, providing integrated, relevant skills that will prepare them for the 21st century workplace. All Arts & Digital Literacy classes are approved for fine arts credit in the 2015 school year. Go to www.txartandmedia.org to download the free Arts & Digital Literacy curriculum, for more information on the Institute, and to register for the Institute. This [video](#) shows the curriculum in action.



Student artwork from the Arts & Digital Literacy Initiative

For more information, please contact Caroline Hammond, Program Director at 512/478-5289 or chammond@txculturaltrust.org. Arts and Digital Literacy is a program of the Texas Cultural Trust in collaboration with University of Texas at Austin College of Fine Arts.

Invite Your US Senator and Representative to Your August Art Event

[Americans for the Arts](#) is leading an effort to help US Senators and Representatives become more familiar with the arts in their districts and states. In August, Members of Congress will return home to the areas they represent for an extended work period, making it a great time to invite your Representative and Senators to arts gatherings, exhibition openings, performances, educational workshops and other events to show them first-hand the power of the arts in your community. Having your Member of Congress visit your event is one of the most effective ways to develop a lasting connection with them and their office.

Americans for the Arts' goal is to have every senator and congressperson attend at least one arts-related event in August. They have developed a [customizable sample invitation to send directly to your Members of Congress](#). Simply enter your zip code in one of the designated boxes and then customize your invitation using the template as well as your own language. For further information, please contact Americans for the Arts' Government Affairs and Grassroots Coordinator Ellie Shingleton at eshingleton@artsusa.org.



Texas Commission on the Arts



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

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