

# NEWS FROM TCA: MARCH/APRIL 2020



Investing in a Creative Texas

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Introducing (virtually) the 2020 class of Young Masters-- scroll down for full details.

## A COVID-19 Update from TCA

This is not remotely the newsletter we thought we'd be sending out when we started working on it in February, but the past several weeks have reminded us all of the need to be flexible; sometimes the best thing is for the show not to go on, as much as we want it to. We want to extend our thanks and admiration to the many artists and arts groups who have rapidly used technology and new ways of reaching out to entertain, charm, comfort, and connect us from afar.

To the best of our ability, TCA is striving to provide continuity of service to help sustain our field. We are continuing to accept applications for upcoming deadlines. Thanks to the willingness of our peer evaluators, we will conduct panel reviews of the applications to the 2020-2022 Texas Touring Roster virtually. The twice-delayed March Commissioners' meeting was held by conference call on March 27, and approved 350 grants. TCA is offering fiscal year 2020 grant recipients as much flexibility as possible to help them address changes in their work and programming due to COVID-19. We have put our professional development webinars on hiatus for the immediate future, but [the recordings](#) of past webinars are online in the meantime. Remember that TCA staff members are working from home so if you need anything, please reach

us via [email](#).

TCA will be receiving some federal relief dollars through the [National Endowment for the Arts](#), but we do not know much more than that at this moment. It will not be enough to address all the economic losses the Texas arts field has felt, but we hope it will be able to help. We will share more details as we receive them.

**If you are looking for more resources for yourself, your business, or your nonprofit, these are among our go-to compilations:**

- Our colleagues at the [Texas Music Office](#) started putting [this list](#) together as SXSW was cancelled, and they continue updating it. The list is not limited to resources for musicians, and includes locally-based resources, and unemployment benefits information through the [Texas Workforce Commission](#).
- The [COVID-19 Freelance Artist Resources list](#) developed by the Freelance Artist Resource Producing Collective is quite comprehensive.
- The NEA has a list of national resources [here](#).

**Are you looking to help out the field during this time of closures and cancellations? Here are some things you can do from your living room:**

- Donate back unused tickets rather than asking for a refund
- Make a direct donation to nonprofits
- See if performing artists/bands have a Patreon page or a virtual tip jar on their website
- Pre-order authors' books or other offerings from artists
- Take an online class offered by an artist
- Book (and pay a deposit now) an artist to do work for you, like performing at your holiday party
- Get ahead on your birthday/holiday shopping now with unique purchases from artists' websites.

## 15 Texas Students Selected for 2020 Young Masters Grants

The Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) and the [Texas Cultural Trust](#) (TCT) are proud to announce the 2020 class of [Young Masters](#). Young Masters is a grant program that provides exemplary art students in grades 8-11 with the financial help they need to pursue advanced study in the areas of visual arts, literary arts, music, theater, dance, musical theater, and media arts. This year's promising young students come from 11 cities and together display a variety of artistic talents.

### TEXAS YOUNG MASTERS



Jordan Apodaca, 11th grade, Dallas, Dance  
Ava Arbuckle, 9th grade, Frisco, Dance/Ballet  
Hannah Bambach, 11th grade, Dallas, Literary Arts/Playwriting  
Haley Beck, 10th grade, Allen, Dance  
Christian Burse, 10th grade, Dallas, Dance  
Claire Druffner, 11th grade, Dallas, Music/Cello  
Vincent Garcia-Hettinger, 9th grade, San Antonio, Music/Cello  
Colby Golightly, 11th grade, North Richland Hills, Visual Arts/Painting  
Kali Kleiman, 11th grade, Frisco, Dance/Ballet  
Cayden McCoy, 11th grade, League City, Theater  
Ellie Palacios, 10th grade, Harlingen, Musical Theater  
Isobel Perez, 10th grade, Houston, Literary Arts/Poetry  
Keshav Srinivasan, 10th grade, Sunset Valley, Music/Violin  
Michelle Wang, 11th grade, Sugar Land, Visual Arts  
Somesh Yatham, 10th grade, Round Rock, Music/Orchestral Composition



The state's most talented young artists receive the title of "Young Master" and are awarded grants of \$5,000 per year to further their studies in their chosen arts disciplines, all before they start college. Students are eligible to receive the grant for two years, but they must submit a report and updated application. This gifted group of 15 students represents the tenth class of Young Masters. Since the program's inception in 2002, the TCT and TCA have named 169 Young Masters, awarding over \$1,000,000 to aspiring artists from across the state.

In order to be considered for the Young Masters grant, students must be legal U.S. residents living in Texas and participating in a school-based program, a summer institute, or a specialized course of study or receiving private lessons from a qualified professional instructor. They must also maintain passing grades in all academic areas. The Young Masters were selected by a citizen panel of experts from across the state based on artistic excellence, level of commitment and quality of their proposed plan of action. TCA and the Texas Cultural Trust congratulate these young artists for their accomplishments and are introducing each Young Master on social media to further celebrate them.

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## TCA Grant & Program Updates

### New Grants Approved

On March 27, TCA Commissioners approved funding of 350 grants in the third funding round for fiscal year 2020. The grants total over \$895,000 and will go to nonprofits and units of government in 108 cities. These grants include the [Arts Respond Project](#) program, the quarterly [Arts Respond Performance Support](#) program, and the quarterly [Commission Initiatives and Designated Funding](#) program. TCA's full list of fiscal year 2020 grants is [here](#).

Arts Respond Project grants fund arts-based projects that address one of the priority areas of economic development, education, health and human services, natural resources and agriculture, or public safety and criminal justice. For the second round of these grants in fiscal year 2020, applications came from 199 arts organizations in 46 cities. 198 grants are approved to receive a total of \$664,660 in this program.

Arts Respond Performance Support grants provide partial support to help applicants host an artist from the [Texas Touring Roster](#) in their community. The 132 grants for this quarter total \$162,261 and will go to 104 organizations and units of government in 74 Texas cities. Recipients include organizations, libraries, and schools across the state, including those in rural communities like Archer City, Ballinger, Carthage, and Monahans.

The Commission Initiatives and Designated Funding grants for this quarter distributed \$12,500 to the Mid-America Arts Alliance for their programs serving Texas audiences, artists, and organizations such as the Artist Inc. training program and the Exhibits USA touring exhibitions program. An additional \$16,000 was approved to support summer rural tours by four Texas Touring Roster artists. Each artist will receive \$4,000 to give six free public performances that will serve designated rural counties in southeast Texas, south Texas, west Texas, and central Texas between June 1 and August 31. This grant program will also distribute a total of \$75,000 in grant funds to the fifteen newly designated 2020 Young Masters.

### Upcoming TCA Application Deadlines

TCA has a few upcoming application deadlines. As always, the TCA staff is happy to discuss your 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 Performance Support

This 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 June 15, 2020 and August 31, 2020

**Application deadline:** midnight on May 1, 2020

**Application form:** [online](#)

**Resources:** [grant guidelines](#), [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 15

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

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

### Grant Program: Cultural District Projects

This program is designed for projects that focus on significant cultural tourism projects happening in a designated cultural district, by established arts organizations that are based in the cultural district and authorized to apply by their cultural district's managing entity.

**Activity dates must be:** between September 1, 2020 and August 31, 2021

**Application deadline:** midnight on June 15, 2020

**Application form:** [online](#)

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

## 2020 Texas Poetry Out Loud Winner Named

On Saturday, February 22, 2020, the Texas Commission on the Arts held the state finals competition of the Poetry Out Loud national poetry recitation contest in Austin. The [Poetry Out Loud](#) recitation contest is a national project of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation (unfortunately, the national competition will not be held this year due to COVID-19).

Poetry Out Loud helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. High school students memorize poems and perform them in competition. At the Texas state finals, 29 high school students from across Texas competed for the state championship. The Poetry Out Loud state finals competition was graciously hosted by the [Bullock Texas State History Museum](#). The students, each having first won their school competition, were evaluated on qualities such as articulation, evidence of understanding, accuracy and overall performance. 2019 Texas Poet Laureate Carrie Fountain served as master of ceremonies for the event. The judges for the competition, Amanda Johnston, Alex Lemon, Pablo Miguel Martínez, and Emmy Pérez (2020 Texas Poet Laureate), are Texas poets and writers.



*Elizabeth Barnes, 2020 Texas Poetry Out Loud champion.  
Photo: Amanda Klaus.*

After two rounds, the field was narrowed to five finalists: Elizabeth Barnes, a 9th grader at Saint Constantine School in Houston; Jay Dileep of Spring's Klein Oak High School; Michaela Christy, who attends Brooks Collegiate Academy in San Antonio; Sonika Harish, a student at Lewisville's Harmon High School; and Claire Hudson, from Parish Episcopal School in Dallas. Ultimately, Elizabeth Barnes won the 2020 Poetry Out Loud state final. As state champion, she will receive \$200 and her school will receive \$500 for the purchase of poetry books and materials. The Texas



runner up was Claire Hudson. She will receive \$100, while her school will receive \$200 for the purchase of poetry books and materials. We congratulate all our 2020 participants, their teachers, and their families.

## Welcome, Pepe!

On February 10, TCA welcomed our newest program assistant, Jose "Pepe" Treviño, who was hired after Ernest Luna was promoted to a program administrator. Pepe is an immigrant born in Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas. At the age of five he moved to Laredo, Texas and became a naturalized citizen. Pepe studied at Texas A&M International University and earned a Bachelor of Arts in English with a minor in communications. While in Laredo, Pepe was an avid participant in the local arts scene. He worked as an actor, crew member, and videographer for several theater productions put up by Laredo Theater Guild International. In 2018, he was awarded the title of Slam Champion of the Laredo Border Slam. As one of the top four poets of Laredo, Pepe represented the city in the regional spoken word poetry competition Southern Fried Poetry Slam. Pepe also served as a member of the Laredo Border Slam board of directors from 2018 to 2019. He moved to Austin in June 2019. Shortly after, Pepe worked as an assistant director for the short film "Devil Dress" and went on to write and direct his own short, "Septic." At TCA, he is excited to continue his career in the arts and to foster a diverse creative community in Austin and across Texas.



*Pepe Treviño*

## Catching Up with Young Master César Martínez (Media Art, 2012)



*César Martínez*

Since its inception in 2002, the Young Masters grant program has supported 169 Texas high school students' studies in the arts. We're using this month's newsletter to share an update from one of our Young Master alumni.

In 2012, César Martínez was named a Young Master in media art by the Texas Commission on the Arts. The Young Masters grant funding he received helped him study at Say Sí, under mentor Ned Meneses. In his first year as a Young Master, César created the short film "En Limbo" which was the first time he took on all the roles of producer, director, writer, cinematographer, and editor, taking the project from pre- to post-production. During his second year of Young Masters funding, César wrote and directed his own short film, and was able to purchase and use professional video, audio, and lighting equipment. He directed a professional cast and crew of over 25. The film, "24 Hour Dhivehi, or: How I Learned to

Stop Worrying and Love the Maldives," premiered at San Antonio's Santikos Theatre Northwest 14.

César writes, "The Texas Young Masters program gave me the opportunity to believe in myself as a filmmaker at a really young age: my junior year of high school. That's a rare and compelling opportunity to feel validated, supported, and appreciated to continue moving forward in a moment that is crucial for young artists. Through the Texas Young Masters program grant, I was

able to continue funding my own short films and hone my craft through a direct practice with filmmaking. Most importantly, the understanding that I could be a storyteller was what underlined my experience as a Texas Young Master. It wasn't a pipe dream to want to make movies because I was now given the pipeline to be able to do that."

In the years since being named a Young Master, César attended Occidental College, graduating with an Honors B.A. in Media Arts and Culture. He was selected as a fellow in the 2018 Class for the [Next Doc Fellowship](#) and has worked in different positions on nonfiction film production. César completed a year as a lead editor for ABC News' digital division and now has his own business as a video producer. His short film, ¡Chaporazzi!, was recently acquired by [POV](#) and is broadcasting throughout the country on PBS. The film was produced through the Creative Culture Fellowship program at the Jacob Burns Film Center, where César was the fall 2018 Social Justice Filmmaker Fellow.

TCA is proud to have been a part of César's early development as an artist, along with our partners at the [Texas Cultural Trust](#).

## Support TCA: Get the Plate that Supports the Arts



TCA's State of the Arts license plate looks great on all kinds of vehicles, shows Texas pride, and supports public arts funding in Texas.

Available at <http://tinyurl.com/TXartsLP>, the plate costs a mere \$30 a year in addition to vehicle registration. \$22 of the \$30 fee goes into TCA's grants budget! TCA is grateful to the many Texas drivers who purchase the *State of the Arts* license

plate, and to the wonderful arts organizations that help promote it to their patrons.



Texas Commission on the Arts

[anina@arts.texas.gov](mailto:anina@arts.texas.gov)  
<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, the Texas Cultural Trust, and the Texas Women for the Arts.