



Texas
Commission
on the Arts

Investing in a Creative Texas

NEWS FROM TCA

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Top: 2015 Texas State Artists Jimmie Vaughan, Carmen Tafolla, Vincent Valdez, and Margo Sawyer
Bottom: 2016 Texas State Artists Joe Ely, Laurie Ann Guerrero, Dornith Doherty, and Dario Robleto

Texas Poet Laureates, State Musicians, State Visual Artists Designated

TCA congratulates the 2015 and 2016 Texas State Artists, who were appointed by the Texas Legislature on May 7. The 2015 appointees are Texas Poet Laureate Carmen Tafolla of San Antonio, Texas State Musician Jimmie Vaughan of Austin, Texas State Two-Dimensional Artist Vincent Valdez of San Antonio, and Texas State Three-Dimensional Artist Margo Sawyer of Elgin. The 2016 appointees are Texas Poet Laureate Laurie Ann Guerrero of San Antonio, Texas State Musician Joe Ely of Austin, Texas State Two-Dimensional Artist Dornith Doherty of Southlake, and Texas State Three-Dimensional Artist Dario Robleto of Houston.

The positions, created by SB 1043 of the 77th Legislature, are filled for one-year terms. The eight appointees for 2015 and 2016 were selected by a legislative-appointed committee for the exceptional quality of their work and for their outstanding commitment to the arts in Texas. Each Texas State Artist reflects the state's diversity and high-quality artistic offerings. Nominees must be native Texans or have resided in the state for at least five years. They must have attained the highest levels of excellence and success in their respective disciplines and earned a statewide, regional or national reputation for their high caliber work. Detailed biographical information on each of the artists is available on the [TCA website](#).

Any Texas citizen was able to nominate an artist in any of the four categories and

self-nominations were encouraged. TCA reviewed all nominations and developed a list of finalists for submission to the Texas Poet Laureate, State Musician and State Artist Committee. The committee, composed of members appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor and speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, made the final selections. The next call for nominations will take place in the fall of 2016.

Texas Poetry Out Loud Winner Named National Finalist



Sam Terry, Texas' 2015 Poetry Out Loud winner, competed in the national contest in Washington, DC, on April 28 and 29. The national competition starts with a day of three semi-finals broken up by region. The top three competitors in each semi-final move on to the next day's event: the national finals.

The Poetry Out Loud recitation contest is a national project of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. High school students memorize poems and perform them in competition, mastering public speaking skills, building self-confidence, and learning about their literary heritage along the way. The Texas Commission on the Arts conducts the program at the state level.

Sam Terry competing in the Poetry Out Loud national finals (photo: James Kegley)

Sam, who is completing his junior year at the Keystone School in San Antonio, was named among the top three in his semi-final for his masterful and nuanced recitations of Gerard Manley Hopkins' "The Windhover," Lisel Mueller's "Monet Refuses the Operation," and John Donne's "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning."

Sam's designation as a national finalist earned him \$1,000. His school, along with those of the other eight students named national finalists, received \$500 for their library to purchase poetry books and materials. Ultimately, Alaska's Maeva Ordaz took the top prize of \$20,000 and bragging rights as the 2015 Poetry Out Loud national winner. Congratulations to Maeva, Sam, and the other students who represented their states on the national stage.

Legislative Session Update



On April 14, the Senate debated and approved **Senate Bill 2**, which is their version of the State budget. TCA's appropriation, in Article I, allocates a total of **\$13.3 M** over the biennium. This is very close to **House Bill 1**, which provides \$10,083 more to TCA over the biennium. These amounts are in line with TCA's budget for the current biennium. Two Exceptional Items (requests made by TCA for additional funds) are listed in Article XI of HB 1. Article XI is thought of as a wish-list of items to be considered if more money in the budget is freed. The Exceptional Items cover arts education



grants for busing costs for school trips to art museums and performances; and funding for designated cultural district marketing, infrastructure, and events.

At present, the conference committee assigned to reconciling the differences between HB1 and SB2 is conducting that work. The conference committee is made up of five members each of the House and Senate. The committee's revisions will be submitted to each chamber for approval. You can use [this page](#) to follow the progress of each bill. The Legislative Session will end on June 1, 2015.

Free Professional Development Webinars

If you missed the **Websites that Work** webinars we offered on April 15, good news! All of our new professional development webinars are recorded and available [online](#) for free.

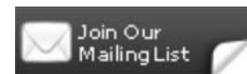
Our next live webinar will be offered at 2 PM (CDT) on Wednesday, June 17 and will cover **Public Relations and Crisis Management** with [David Wyatt](#). Stay tuned for a specific email that gives information about registering for the webinar.

Thank you, Arts Create Evaluators!

Since April 27, TCA has been holding a series of nine discipline-specific panels in Austin to review and score applications to the **Arts Create** grant program. Panel meetings will continue through May 21. Panels are composed of arts administrators and artists from across the state. We're extremely grateful for the time and expertise that the evaluators give to this important process.



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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