

## NEWS FROM TCA

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Image courtesy of Texas Legislature Online

### **Texas Legislature Increases TCA's Funding**

Since our last update, House Bill 1, the bill containing the Texas Commission on the Arts' appropriation, received a rider that included an additional \$5 million to TCA's annual budget. 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 would 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 Texas House and Senate both approved this legislation.

The legislative session ended on June 1, 2015. All bills passed by the House and Senate during the session may now be reviewed by Governor Abbott, who has the ability to veto a bill or a line item between now and June 21. TCA cannot count on the appropriation until after Governor Abbott signs the legislation into law or the veto period ends. While much is yet to be determined, the addition of the Cultural District grant funds would be a significant increase to TCA's budget and its capacity to impact cultural tourism in the state. The Texas Commission on the Arts is grateful for the opportunity to better address the arts' impact on tourism and the state's economy

through the Cultural Districts program.

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 meeting with Texas Comptroller staff to determine the way that the funds would be certified. After the bill's status with the Governor is clear, TCA will be able to work toward grant program guidelines and deadlines around the funding for Cultural Districts.

## Arts Respond Project Applications Due July 15

TCA has an upcoming application deadline 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 begin: Between September 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016

Application deadline: Midnight on July 15, 2015

Application form: **Available online now**

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

Webinar: On **June 18**, TCA will offer a **free webinar** about the application process. This one-hour webinar is recommended for new applicants and include a Q&A option. The live webinar will be offered twice on June 18. We encourage you to register in advance for a webinar by clicking on the link below:

[June 18, 2015 10:30 CDT](#)

[June 18, 2015 2:30 CDT](#)

If you're unable to attend the live webinar, a recording will be available afterward.

## Free Professional Development Webinar June 17

Mark your calendars for June 17! Our next live webinar will be offered at 2 pm CDT and will cover **Public Relations and Crisis Management** with **David Wyatt** of [Wyatt Brand](#), an agency specializing in PR and branding for cultural entities. Space is limited, so reserve your spot today by [registering](#) now!

If you can't attend the live webinar or you missed our earlier ones, including **Websites that Work** with Christopher Rankin and **The Power of Many Small Gifts: Making the Most of Giving Days** with Alex Alford, you're in luck! All of our new professional development webinars are recorded

and available at <https://www.vimeo.com/txartspd> for free.



David Wyatt knows what to do in a PR crisis.

## Texas Touring Roster Artist Rural Summer Tours



Storyteller Consuelo Samarripa, one of the artists conducting summer rural tours for TCA

In an effort to provide more quality performances and arts opportunities in rural areas of the state, TCA has chosen twelve [Texas Touring Roster](#) artists and groups to provide free performances in rural counties (TCA pays each artist a flat fee for the performances directly.). Each artist or group provides six performances in an assigned area, and spring performances are hosted by local nonprofits, units of government, or schools. In the summer, the tours focus on

youth summer reading programs in libraries. Hosts are reminded that any Texas nonprofit or unit of government (including schools and libraries) is eligible to apply for an [Arts Respond Performance Support](#) grant for up to half of a Texas Touring Roster artist's fee.

Spring tours were conducted March 1-May 31, with another group of artists selected to conduct summer tours June 1-August 31. Upcoming performances include [Consuelo Samarripa](#) at the Clyde Public Library, the County-City Library in Sweetwater, the Coleman Public Library, and the Carnegie Library of Ballinger; [Sue Kuentz](#) at the Dallam-Hartley County Library in Dalhart, the Sherman County Library, and the Borger, Fritch, and Stinnett branches of the Hutchinson County Library; and [Sue Young](#) at the El Progreso Memorial Library in Uvalde, Quemado Public Library, Dimmit County Public Library in Carrizo Springs, the Eagle Pass Public Library, the Dilley Public Library, and the Olga V. Figueroa Zapata County Public Library in Zapata.

[Kim Lehman](#) will entertain young audiences at the Marathon Public Library, the Presidio Library, Jeff Davis County Library, the Alpine Public Library, the Marfa Public Library, and Van Horn City County Library, while [Rhythm Path](#) will perform for the Sanderson Arts & Education Alliance, the Gilmer Memorial Library in Rocksprings, the Sutton County Library, and the Val Verde County Library. Additionally, [Elizabeth Ellis](#) will provide performances at Mineola Memorial Library, Mount Pleasant Public Library, Sulphur Springs Public Library, and Franklin County Cultural Arts Center; and [KoumanKele Dance and Drum Ensemble](#) will conduct a rural tour focused on

counties around San Jacinto County. Special thanks to the fantastic artists conducting rural tours on TCA's behalf this year.

## June Commission Meeting

TCA Commissioners will convene for their last meeting of the 2015 fiscal year on June 24, 2015. The meeting will include discussion of the completed legislative session, the fiscal year 2016 budget, and review and approval of the quarterly Arts Respond Performance Support program and the quarterly Commission Initiatives and Designated Funding categories. The meeting will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor of 920 Colorado, Austin, TX 78701 starting at 9 AM CDT.



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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Texas Commission on the Arts | 920 Colorado | 5th Floor | Austin | TX | 78701