

NEWS FROM TCA

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Texas Comptroller Certifies Funding for Cultural District Grants

As a result of the Legislative Session, the Texas Commission on the Arts' appropriation was increased by \$5 million for the 2016-2017 biennium. The new funds are specifically for cultural tourism grants and allow TCA to offer a grant program for designated Cultural District marketing, infrastructure, and events.

One step has remained in adding the additional funds to TCA's working budget. The legislation containing the additional funds stipulated 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 has been working with Texas Comptroller staff on the certification process, and received word yesterday that the Comptroller's Office has certified the full \$5 million!**

TCA has already received the first round of applications for Cultural District Project grants for projects to be conducted between December 1, 2015-August 31, 2016. Approved grants will be announced after December 8. [Cultural District Project grants](#) are available to eligible, [verified](#) arts organizations in designated Cultural Districts for marketing, infrastructure, and events.

The addition of the new \$5 million for Cultural District Project grants is a significant increase to TCA's budget and its capacity to impact cultural tourism in the state. 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. Special thanks to the Texas Cultural Trust and Texans for the Arts for their efforts to secure these funds.



Texas Commission on the Arts



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