

## NEWS FROM TCA

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The Dallas Museum of Art is one of 20 recipients of Cultural District Project grants for the exhibition Jackson Pollock: Blind Spots. Photo courtesy of Dallas Museum of Art.

### Cultural District Project Grants Awarded

On December 8, TCA Commissioners approved funding of 20 Arts Respond Cultural District Project grants for fiscal year 2016. The grants total \$1.5 million and will go to arts nonprofits and local government agencies in 11 different cultural districts in Dallas, El Paso, Galveston, Houston, Lubbock, San Elizario, and Wimberley. **The grants ranged in amount from \$10,000 to \$500,000. Approved recipients were awarded the full amount they requested in the grant application. A full list of the grants organized by city is [available here](#).**

"We are pleased to be able to provide such strong support for so many high-profile arts activities across the state," said Gary Gibbs, executive director of TCA. "The substantial work that our grantees are doing not only advances the arts in Texas, but it attracts visitors and additional dollars to our state and local economies."

These awards are the first given through the new Arts Respond Cultural District Project grant program. The grants are offered to eligible arts organizations in designated cultural districts for projects that focus on significant cultural tourism efforts through such activities as marketing, infrastructure, and major events. **Funded projects are expected to use the arts to diversify local economies, generate revenue, and attract visitors and investment.** The Arts Respond Cultural

District Projects are funded through a \$5 million legislative increase for cultural tourism grants in TCA's budget for the 2016-2017 biennium. The remainder of the funding will be distributed through the grant program for the second year of the biennium. TCA extends its appreciation to Texans for the Arts and the Texas Cultural Trust for their efforts to secure these funds.

The 20 approved grants were among 39 applications reviewed and scored by a panel of evaluators with expertise in the arts, cultural districts, marketing, and economics. Cultural districts are special zones designated by TCA that harness the power of cultural resources to stimulate economic development and community revitalization. These districts can become focal points for generating business, attracting tourists, stimulating cultural development and fostering civic pride. Currently, there are 28 cultural districts in Texas.

## NEA Chairman Marks Agency's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at LBJ Library



NEA Chairman Jane Chu with NEH Chairman William D. Adams.  
LBJ Library photo by Jay Godwin.

National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu was in Austin on December 7 to participate in a conversation with William D. Adams, National Endowment for the Humanities Chairman, about the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NEA and the NEH. The conversation was held at the LBJ Presidential Library and was moderated by LBJ Presidential Library Director Mark K. Updegrave. TCA was one of the partners in organizing the event. The evening commemorated the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities Act, which was signed by President Lyndon B. Johnson on September 29, 1965 to create the

National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. While in Texas, Chairman Chu conducted visits with area arts organizations, including Austin organizations ZACH Theatre, the Austin Film Society, and Mindpop; and the San Antonio Museum of Art, MujerArtes, San Anto Cultural Arts, the National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures, and the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center in San Antonio.

## Upcoming TCA Opportunities

TCA has several upcoming application deadlines 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 be:** Between April 1, 2016 and August 31, 2016

**Application deadline:** Midnight on January 15, 2016

**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

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

### **Texas Touring Roster Inclusion**

The Texas Touring Roster is a listing of Texas-based artists and companies that tour the state to provide quality arts experiences. It is open to all artistic disciplines: dance, music, theatre, literature, storytelling, visual arts, and film/media arts. Being listed on the Texas Touring Roster attests to an artist's quality and allows the artist to refer potential clients to the Arts Respond Performance Support grant program for partial funding.

**Application deadline:** Midnight on January 31, 2016

**Resources:** [program guidelines](#), [required attachments checklist](#), [FAQ with recorded webinar](#), [current Texas Touring Roster](#)

## **Free Professional Development Webinars**

TCA will host a free professional development webinar on Wednesday, December 16 at 2 PM CST titled "Development: If you Don't Ask, the Answer is Always NO." This webinar will offer some insider pointers for developing meaningful government, foundation and donor relationships that lead to success. Presenter JD DiFabbio, an independent development advisor (Marfa/Austin/Houston), will answer questions from the audience following the presentation. If you're not able to attend the live webinar, it will be recorded and available with all of TCA's free professional development webinars [online](#).

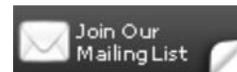


JD DiFabbio

JD DiFabbio is an independent development advisor, grant writer, and non-profit program producer. Based in Marfa, TX since 2005, she has worked with Marfa Live Arts, the Crowley Theater, Marfa International School, Nameless Sound, and The Contemporary Austin. In January 2015, she represented Marfa Live Arts on a panel discussing community engagement projects at the Texas Commission on the Arts' State of the Arts conference. Previously, she was the Director of Operations and Development for Ballroom Marfa for six years. JD also serves on the board of Glasstire and the Marfa Public Library. She is an avid collector of vintage caftans and an advocate for the growing movement "How to Get Your Body Caftan-Ready for Summer."



Texas Commission on the Arts



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

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