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**TEXAS COMMISSION ON THE ARTS
ADDS 20 ARTISTS TO TEXAS TOURING ROSTER**

Austin, TX – June 2, 2016 – The Texas Commission on the Arts is pleased to announce that 20 Texas artists and arts companies have been approved to be added to the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) Texas Touring Roster, bringing the total number of artists on the Roster to 178. The Texas Touring Roster features some of the state’s best artistic talent and is designed to ensure that all Texans may enjoy events and performances by these artists in their local communities.

“Artists on the Texas Touring Roster travel to communities across the state and perform in a variety of venues,” said TCA executive director Gary Gibbs. “In addition to performances, they may also conduct workshops, master classes, residencies, lecture-demonstrations or arts education components as a way to engage community residents. We are proud to offer the citizens of Texas access to such high-quality artistic talent.”

Artists on the roster must have a history of touring and maintain a reasonable fee range. The Texas Commission on the Arts does not provide direct funds to the artists on the Texas Touring Roster. Instead, TCA provides grants to arts presenters, schools, libraries, theaters, and other nonprofits and government units throughout Texas to help with the cost of bringing in companies and artists from the roster. Presenters may apply through TCA’s Arts Respond Performance Support grant category for a portion of the artistic fees for artists from the Texas Touring Roster.

Acceptance onto the Texas Touring Roster is for two years, and benefits groups and artists by giving them a powerful marketing tool. Access to grant funds, combined with the fact that Texas Touring Roster artists have been deemed the best in their field by a panel of statewide experts, makes these artists attractive to a variety of presenters, including schools, festivals, theaters and other venues.

The twenty artists and companies approved to be added to the Roster are:

[Aztex](#), Kyle
[Bike Zoo](#), Austin
[Bruce Wood Dance Company](#), Dallas
[Dark Circles Contemporary Dance](#), Southlake
[Ruthie Foster](#), Austin
[Pamela Hart](#), Cedar Park
[Las Tesoros de San Antonio](#), San Antonio
[Laser Spectacles](#), San Marcos
[Montopolis Chamber Ensemble](#), Austin
[Mother Falcon](#), Austin
[Steve Parker](#), Austin
[Puppet Pizzazz](#), Houston
[Woody Russell](#), Austin
[ire'ne lara silva](#), Austin
[Peggy Stern](#), Austin
[Tapestry Dance Company](#), Austin
[Tumbaká](#), Houston
[Van Cliburn Foundation](#), Fort Worth
[Matt Wilson](#), Austin
[WindSync](#), Houston

Artists on the Texas Touring Roster range from individual performing and visual artists to large performing arts companies. They represent artistic disciplines including music, visual art, dance, theater, storytelling, literary art and folk art. Options are diverse and range from ballet to African dance, bluegrass to conjunto, animation to poetry, jazz to children's theater, sitar to puppetry, and everything in between. The complete Texas Touring Roster, as well as information on the Arts Respond Performance Support grant category, is available online at www.arts.texas.gov.

About the Texas Commission on the Arts

The mission of the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) is to advance our state economically and culturally by investing in a creative Texas. TCA supports a diverse and innovative arts community in Texas, throughout the nation, and internationally, by providing resources to enhance economic development, arts education, cultural tourism and artist sustainability initiatives. For more information on TCA and its programs, please visit www.arts.texas.gov.

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