

# NEWS FROM TCA: OCTOBER 2016



Investing in a Creative Texas

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October brings some spooky performances! Last October, TCA funds helped WaterTower Theatre in Addison stage the world premiere of "Creep," a musical by Donald Fowler. Photo by Karen Almond.

## TCA Proposes Grant Program Rule Changes

At the September 7 Commission meeting, TCA staff proposed a number of changes to the agency's grant guidelines, and received approval from Commissioners to post the changes to the [Texas Register](#) for public comment.

The proposed changes are [online](#) in full and include:

- To end the Arts Create Subgranting program
- To change the application limit for Arts Respond Projects from two applications to one per deadline
- To classify arts organizations with budgets under \$50,000 into verified and unverified based on whether they filed with the IRS using a Form 990 or a Form 990-EZ (which both include financial data) or an e-postcard 990-N (which contains no financial data)
- To update the eligibility rules for Arts Respond Projects specifying that arts organizations with budgets under \$50,000 that apply must have verified budgets.

- To cap the maximum request amount for Cultural District Projects at \$250,000
- To add an annual reporting requirement to TCA-designated cultural districts
- Additional changes to update and clarify current guidelines without making rule changes.

These changes are proposed to help address increased demand on TCA grant programs, recommendations of the Sunset Commission staff, risk reduction, best practices and efficiency. **TCA will take comments from the public through October 22, 2016.** Guidelines for submitting comments are in the Texas Register posting. Public comments will be reviewed by Commissioners at their December 7, 2016 meeting.

## State Artist Nominations

The deadline to submit [nominations](#) for the 2017 and 2018 Texas State Artists is coming up on **October 15!** Nominations are accepted for Texas State Musician, Texas Poet Laureate, Texas State Two-Dimensional Artist (visual arts), and Texas State Three-Dimensional Artist (visual arts). Any Texas citizen is able to nominate a living artist in any of the four categories and self-nominations are welcome. 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. The Texas Poet Laureate, State Musician and State Artist Committee, composed of members appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, will make the final selections for the Legislature's consideration and approval in spring 2017.



*2016 Texas Poet Laureate Laurie Ann Guerrero*

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 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. The 2015 appointees are Texas Poet Laureate Dr. 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. Go [here](#) to learn more about the Texas State Artists nomination process.

## Upcoming TCA Application Deadline and Updates

TCA has an upcoming application deadline. As always, the TCA staff is happy to discuss your 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.

### Arts Respond Performance Support

This program provides professional artist fees to Texas nonprofits, schools, colleges, and units of government for hiring an artist from the [Texas Touring Roster](#) to do a performance. These

applications are funded based on a percentage of contracted fees.

**Activity dates must start:** Between December 15, 2016 and March 14, 2017

**Application deadline:** Midnight on **November 1, 2016**

**Application form:** [Online](#)

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

#### **Arts Create & Arts Respond Project Grants Update:**

If your organization was approved to receive an [Arts Create](#) and/or [Arts Respond Project](#) grant, grant contracts have started to go out via email. TCA cannot pay any grant until original signed contracts are received from grantees. TCA also requires all grant recipients to contact their state representative and state senator to share news about their grant award and thank them for making these funds available. This is an opportunity to educate your elected officials about the work that you do in your community. You may use one letter to each legislator to acknowledge all of your TCA grants that were approved by TCA Commissioners in September. Please send TCA copies of these thank-you letters to [attach@arts.texas.gov](mailto:attach@arts.texas.gov). If your organization is new to applying to TCA, you will also need to [get set up](#) to receive your grant funds via direct deposit.

## **Professional Development Webinar: Foundations and Corporate Gifts**

Are you looking to diversify your organization's income sources? TCA's next free professional development webinar will focus on grants and gifts from foundations and corporations. Two development powerhouses, **Zenetta Drew**, Executive Director of [Dallas Black Dance Theatre](#), and **Brett Barnes**, Vice President for Development at the [Long Center](#) in Austin, will provide effective practices for developing and maintaining relationships with these important funding sources. A lively discussion will follow the presentations with time for webinar attendees' questions to be answered.



*Zenetta Drew*

**Zenetta Drew** has been with Dallas Black Dance Theatre since 1987 and has seen the company grow dramatically over her tenure from an annual operating budget of \$175,000 to over \$4 million. The company's yearly services have grown from 30 to over 600 with national and international venues and audience growth has increased from 20,000 to 150,000 annually. Currently a member of several arts boards, Ms. Drew has guest lectured on fundraising, accounting, and arts leadership for multiple groups including SMU, the Texas Society of CPA's Nonprofit Organizations, Syracuse University, LeMoyne College and Texas A&M University - Commerce.



**Brett Barnes** has earned the credentials of Certified Fund Raising Executive and Certified Fund Raising Manager and is an active member of the Austin Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. Mr. Barnes was honored in 2013 as the Outstanding Professional Fundraiser of the Year by AFP Greater Austin. He has presented at local, state and national conferences on fundraising best practices as well as evaluating arts grants. As Vice President of Development for the Long Center, Mr. Barnes leads their fundraising efforts. Working with generous donors, he recently closed a \$1.5M endowment gift for their education programs.

**The live webinar will be held Wednesday, October 19 at 2 PM CT.** Register for the webinar now [here](#). If you can't attend the live

Brett Barnes webinar or missed any of our earlier ones, you're in luck! All of the professional development webinars are recorded and available on the [Professional Development Vimeo page](#) for free.

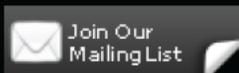
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## October is National Arts & Humanities Month



Since 1985, the month of October has been designated [National Arts and Humanities Month](#) to encourage all Americans to explore new facets of the arts and humanities in their lives, and to begin a lifelong habit of active participation in the arts. We hope the arts already have a strong role in your life, but if not, October is a great month to go to a performance, a reading, a screening, or a museum-- or to make some art yourself.

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Texas Commission on the Arts

anina@arts.texas.gov  
<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, the Texas Cultural Trust, and Texas Women for the Arts.