

NEWS FROM TCA: FEBRUARY 2017



Investing in a Creative Texas

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TCA's Next Budget Included in Texas Senate and House Budget Bills

The 85th Session of the Texas Legislature began on Tuesday, January 10th. As part of the budget process, TCA filed a Strategic Plan and Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR). The format of the LAR allows TCA to request the amount of its current two-year budget as the Base Appropriations Request, and to ask for additional Exceptional Items as additions to the budget for the coming two years. TCA's Legislative Appropriations Request is available in full [here](#). The request was for base-level funding (i.e., flat funding in line with the 2016-2017 biennium) of just over \$17 million over the biennium. For the 2018-19 biennium, TCA requested no Exceptional Items.

TCA's Legislative Appropriations Request will be considered as part of Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 2. As filed, both bills recommend that TCA receive the Base Appropriations Request amount minus \$4.33 million (for the biennium) for [Cultural District Projects](#). TCA is submitting a request that these dollars be restored to its base appropriation.

The Senate Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee will review TCA's LAR and discuss all requested amounts. The Senate Finance Committee has been appointed and has

started meeting; TCA's budget is scheduled to be discussed on February 6, 2017.

The Senate Finance Committee Chair is Jane Nelson (Flower Mound) and the Vice Chair is Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (McAllen). The Committee's additional members are: Paul Bettencourt (Houston); Brian Birdwell (Granbury); Kelly Hancock (North Richland Hills); Joan Huffman (Houston); Lois Kolkhorst (Brenham); Robert Nichols (Jacksonville); Charles Schwertner (Georgetown); Kel Seliger (Amarillo); Larry Taylor (Friendswood); Carlos Uresti (San Antonio); Kirk Watson (Austin); Royce West (Dallas); and John Whitmire (Houston).

Since the Texas Legislature meets biennially, it will make decisions on two years' worth of State budgeting, including TCA's budget for fiscal year 2018 (September 1, 2017-August 31, 2018) and fiscal year 2019 (September 1, 2018-August 31, 2019). The Legislative Session will end on May 29, 2017.

Texans for the Arts Foundation to Hold Arts Advocacy Day February 9



Margy Waller

The Texans for the Arts Foundation will hold Arts Advocacy Day at the Texas Capitol on Thursday, **February 9, 2017**. The event will begin at 10:30 AM with a keynote on the "Arts Ripple Effect" by Topos Partnership's Margy Waller, followed by advocacy orientation and training, a noon celebration in the Capitol Rotunda, afternoon visits to State legislators, and a reception hosted by the [Texas Cultural Trust](#).

Full details on Arts Advocacy Day, including how to reserve your spot, are [here](#). Registrations will be accepted through Thursday, February 9, 2017, including onsite registrations. (Please note that registrations made after 12 noon on Monday, February 6th will still include all materials and training, but cannot be guaranteed a boxed lunch.)

Upcoming TCA Application Deadlines and Reminder

TCA has a few upcoming application deadlines. 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.

Grant Program: Arts Create

This program provides multi-year operational support to arts organizations with established cash budgets over \$50,000. Applicants write their grant for a one-year period and, if funded, will provide an update for the second year. Depending on the availability of funds, the organization's award amount will be the same for two fiscal years.

Support dates must be: between September 1, 2017 and August 31, 2018

Application deadline: Midnight on March 1 or March 15. Note: deadline varies depending on organization classification. Your specific deadline will be shown in your online account with TCA.

Application form: [Online](#)

Resources: [grant guidelines](#); [contact TCA staff](#); a link to a recorded webinar about the application process was sent to eligible account holders.

Organization Classification

Recent changes to TCA's rules mean that arts organizations with budgets under \$50,000 will be required to have their budgets [verified](#) (via a form 990 or 990-EZ filed with the IRS) in order to apply for [Arts Respond Project](#) grants starting with the July 15, 2017 deadline. Affected organizations have received notice of this by email, and a [webinar](#) was provided to explain the process. Because the process can take some time, affected organizations are urged to address this now.

Professional Development Webinar Series: Recruiting, Retaining, and Building a Diverse Board of Directors

Mark your calendars for a new free professional development webinar from TCA. On **February 15** at 2 PM CST, [Margie Reese](#) will present **Recruiting, Retaining, and Building a Diverse Board of Directors**. Margie will provide fresh ideas around inclusion that can improve board diversity, broaden audiences, and identify new patrons. After the presentation, Ms. Reese will take questions from the online audience.

Margie will bring a variety of perspectives to this topic. She has served as a Program Officer for the Ford Foundation in New York, General Manager of the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs, Director of the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, and is currently Executive Director of the Wichita Falls Alliance for Arts and Culture. [Click here to register now!](#)



Margie Reese

If you're unable to attend this webinar, or missed earlier webinars, you're in luck! All of the professional development webinars are recorded and available on our Professional Development [Vimeo page](#) for free.

Texas Medal of Arts Awards

TCA's friends at the [Texas Cultural Trust](#) have announced the recipients of the 2017 Texas Medal of Arts Awards (TMAA). The Texas Medal of Arts Awards will be celebrated on **February 21-22, 2017** in Austin.

This year's honorees include Kris Kristofferson, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Kenny Rogers, Yolanda Adams, John Phillip Santos, Renee Elise Goldsberry, Lauren Anderson, and Leo Villareal. Award recipients will be honored at celebration events on Tuesday, February 21, and Wednesday, February 22, at Bass Concert Hall in Austin. This biennial event, co-chaired by Peter Holt and Guillermo Nicolas, celebrates the state's legendary artists, entertainers, and art patrons with a series of events, including a gala dinner, star-studded awards show, and concert. Click [here](#) to learn about all TMAA honorees or purchase event tickets.



Texas Poetry Out Loud Finals



Madison Heggins at the 2016 Texas Poetry Out Loud competition

The Texas Commission on the Arts will host the Texas Poetry Out Loud recitation contest for high school students at 1:00 PM on Saturday, **February 25**, in Austin. The finals, graciously hosted by the [Bullock Texas State History Museum](#), will be open to the public and free to attend. 25 students will represent their schools in the competition. The event will be hosted by Texas poet Naomi Shihab Nye.

The [Poetry Out Loud](#) recitation contest is a national project of the [National Endowment for the Arts](#) and the [Poetry Foundation](#). This exciting program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. High school students memorize poems and perform them in competition. At the state level, the winner and runner up receive cash awards and their school libraries receive money to help them buy poetry books. State winners compete in Washington, DC for a pool of \$50,000 in scholarships for students and cash awards for schools. Texas' 2016 winner, Madison Heggins, was one of the top nine national finalists, winning \$1,000 for herself, and \$500 for her school!



Texas Commission on the Arts

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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.