



Texas
Commission
on the Arts

Investing in a Creative Texas

NEWS FROM TCA

arts.texas.gov [State of the Arts License Plate](#) [Art Jobs](#)



Last year's rural tours by Texas Touring Roster artists included this performance in Muleshoe by R.J. Vandygriff. Our 2015 rural tours are going on now. Scroll down for more information on those performances. (Photo courtesy of Alice Liles from her blog, *The Bright Lights of Muleshoe*)

Legislative Session Update



Texas' 84th Legislative Session is rolling along. On March 31 (and into the early morning of April 1), the House debated House Bill 1 (TCA's appropriation is made in Article I of HB 1). Two amendments to redistribute portions of TCA's budget to other agencies were withdrawn, leaving TCA's recommended appropriation at \$13.3 M over the biennium. This amount is in line with TCA's budget for the current year. Two Exceptional Items (requests made by TCA for additional funds) are listed in Article XI of HB 1. Article XI is thought of as a wish-list of items to be considered if more money in the budget is freed. The Exceptional

Items cover arts education grants for busing costs for school trips to art museums and performances; and funding for designated cultural district marketing, infrastructure, and events.

This week, the Senate will debate their version of the State budget, Senate Bill 2. After that happens, a conference committee made up of five members each of the House and Senate will reconcile the differences between HB 1 and SB 2 and submit the revisions to each chamber for approval. You can use [this page](#) to follow the progress of each bill.

TCA Grant Opportunity and Update

Arts Respond Performance Support Grant Opportunity:

TCA has an upcoming application deadline that your organization may be eligible for. The **Arts Respond Performance Support** grant 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 or conduct a workshop. These applications are funded based on a percentage of contracted fees.

Activity must start and conclude: Between June 15, 2015 and August 31, 2015

Application deadline: Midnight on May 1, 2015

Application form: Online

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

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.

Arts Create Update:

If your organization applied for the separate **Arts Create** grant program for the March deadline, nine discipline-specific panels will be meeting in Austin between April 27 and May 21 to review and score these grant applications. The panels do not require applicants to attend, but if you would like to know more about the process and when your application will be reviewed, please contact our program staff for help (scroll to the bottom of [this page](#) to see artistic discipline assignments by staff member).

Free Professional Development Webinars: Websites that Work



TCA will host the second webinar in the new Professional Development series on Wednesday, April 15. **Websites that Work** will be offered in two tiers according to experience. At 1 PM, [Building Your Success](#) will offer a beginning overview of effective practices for web design, including help with deciding whether to create and manage your own website or hire someone else. At 2:30 PM, [Quantifying Your Success](#), for those with intermediate experience with websites, will focus on best practices for mobile and desktop users and discuss using analytics to track page views. Special guest [Christopher Rankin](#) (pictured here with a certain

Christopher Rankin and Grumpy Cat (internet celebrity), web developer for [KLRU-TV/Austin PBS](#), will provide expert guidance for nonprofit web design. After each presentation, Christopher will answer questions from the audience. Registration is first come, first served, but webinars will be recorded and put online afterward.

If you missed the first webinar in this series, a recording of it is available [here](#). Our next webinar will be offered June 17 and will cover Public Relations and Crisis Management with [David Wyatt](#).

Texas Touring Roster Artist Rural Tours

In an effort to provide more quality performances and arts opportunities in rural areas of the state, TCA has chosen twelve [Texas Touring Roster](#) artists and groups to provide free performances in rural counties (TCA pays each artist a flat fee for the performances directly.). Each artist or group provides six performances in an assigned area, and the performances are hosted by local nonprofits, units of government, or schools. In the summer, these tours focus on youth summer reading programs in libraries. Hosts are reminded that any Texas nonprofit or unit of government (including schools and libraries) is eligible to apply for an Arts Respond Performance Support grant for up to half of a Texas Touring Roster artist's fee.



Upcoming performances include [Adler & Hearne](#) at the Whatley Center for the Performing Arts in Mount Pleasant, the Franklin County Arts Alliance in Mount Vernon, and the Opera House Theatre Players in Jefferson; [Colleen Mallette](#) at the Post Public Library in Post and Western Texas College in Snyder; the [Almost Patsy Cline Band](#) at the Dobie West Theater in George West and the Frio Pioneer Jail Museum in Pearsall; and [Elizabeth Kahura](#) at the Stephenville Public Library and the Dublin Public Library. [Mark Shelton](#) completed his tour in March, visiting Akin Elementary School in Hale Center, Tulia High School, Lazbuddie School, Springlake-Earth High School in Earth, Farwell ISD, and Kress ISD.

Summer tours are being scheduled by the artists assigned to them. We'll share more information on those tours next month. Special thanks to the fantastic artists conducting rural tours on TCA's behalf this year.

Texas State Poet Laureates, Musicians, and Visual Artists

Coming soon: the Texas Legislature will be announcing the **2015 and 2016 Texas State Poet Laureates, Texas State Musicians, Texas State Two-Dimensional Artists and Texas State Three-Dimensional Artists**. TCA managed the nomination process for these designations, and we're excited about these selections.



Texas Commission on the Arts



<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, Target, the Texas Cultural Trust, and Texas Women for the Arts.

Copyright © 2013. All Rights Reserved.



Texas Commission on the Arts | 920 Colorado | 5th Floor | Austin | TX | 78711