

NEWS FROM TCA

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2014 Young Masters with singer-songwriter Bonnie Bishop. Photo: Chris Caselli

Applications Open for 2016 Young Masters

The Texas Commission on the Arts and the Texas Cultural Trust are accepting applications for the 2016 class of Young Masters. The grant program is a joint initiative that provides exemplary Texas-based arts students in grades 8-11 with the financial help they need to pursue advanced study in the areas of visual arts, literary arts, music, theater, dance, musical theater, and media arts.

The state's most talented young artists will receive the title of "Young Master" and will be awarded grants of \$5,000 per year to further their studies in their chosen arts disciplines. Students are eligible to receive the grant for two years, but they must submit a report and update application. The students selected for this program will represent the eighth class of Young Masters. The Trust and TCA have given 243 grants to 104 previous Young Masters, awarding \$607,500 to aspiring artists since the program's inception in 2002.

Applications, information and guidelines are available [online](#). Applications and required supporting materials must be postmarked by November 16, 2015. In order to be considered for the grant, students must be legal U.S. residents living in Texas and participating in a school-based program, a summer institute or a specialized course of study, or receiving private lessons from a qualified professional instructor. They must also maintain passing grades in all academic areas. The Young Masters will be selected by a citizen panel of experts from across the state based on artistic excellence, level of commitment and quality of their proposed plan of study. Disbursement for this class of Young Masters will begin in spring 2016. The 2016 Young Masters recipients will be honored at a star-studded event on Monday, April 25, 2016 in Austin.

TCA Grant Updates

The TCA Commissioners will hold their quarterly meeting on September 2, 2015. At this meeting, they will make final funding decisions on applications for [Arts Create](#) funding, [Arts Respond Project](#) funding, and [Arts Respond Performance Support](#) funding. They will also consider recommendations for the [Cultural Districts Designation](#) program.

If your organization applied for the Arts Create grant program or the Arts Respond Project program, **panel comments, scores and recommended funding amounts have recently been posted in your online account.** If your organization applied for an Arts Respond Performance Support grant, you can call TCA staff to find out the amount you're recommended to receive.

If you have any questions, 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



Dayron J. Miles will expand on the influential presentation he gave at TCA's conference.

Funders frequently ask their grantees to diversify their staff, board, and the people they serve, but many nonprofits don't know where to start. TCA's upcoming free Professional Development Webinar will provide strategies for authentic diversity outreach. Dayron J. Miles, Manager of Community and Audience Engagement at the Dallas Theater Center, will present **Community Engagement: A Powerful Tool for Building Diversity** online on **Wednesday, August 19** at 2 PM CDT. Mr. Miles will cover the importance of shifting the institutional mindset, asking hard questions, and listening to communities. Following the presentation, Mr. Miles will take questions from participants. [Register now](#) for the free webinar.

If you can't attend the live webinar or missed an earlier one, including **Public Relations and Crisis Management**, **Websites that Work** and **The Power of Many Small Gifts: Making the Most of Giving Days**, you're in luck! All of the professional development webinars are recorded and available on TCA's [Vimeo page](#) for free.

High Schools: Sign Up Now for Poetry Out Loud

The new school year is upon us, which means that TCA is signing up high schools across the state to participate in the Poetry Out Loud program. Interested educators should contact TCA soon to sign up to conduct the program during the fall semester. Program materials will be sent to participating schools, but can be previewed [online](#).



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. Each participating high school must hold the competition to determine its school winner by December 15, 2015. The school winner will go on to compete at the state competition in Austin on February 27, 2016.



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' 2014-2015 school-year winner, Sam Terry, was one of the top nine national finalists, winning \$1,000 for himself, and \$500 for his school! More information on the state competition is [here](#).

What One Arts Group Did for Summer Vacation



URBAN-15 staff with greenscreen butterfly dancers for "Metamorphosis" video production. Photo courtesy of URBAN-15

TCA grantees have been doing some pretty impressive things this summer, and we're proud to have supported their work. As just one example, the URBAN-15 Group in San Antonio received a TCA Arts Respond Project public safety and criminal justice grant of \$5,000 to support the organization's five-week Summer Arts Intensive Workshop in Dance and Drumming at the Presa Community Center, American Sunrise, and the Martinez Street Women's Center. During the summer, many children in the neighborhoods served by these organizations attended free,

all-day programs at their facilities. URBAN-15 partnered with the organizations to provide the arts instruction for these youth. The neighborhoods served by the Presa Community Center, American Sunrise, and the Martinez Street Women's Center show high school-dropout rates, high levels of teenage pregnancy, and large numbers of first-time juvenile arrests. Through an immersion of creative activities, the Summer Arts Intensive Workshop offered a free, positive alternative to at-risk behaviors.

Attendees participated in dance and drumming workshops and learned teamwork, cooperation, confidence, and production behaviors as a part of their ensemble work. All classes created an original made-for-YouTube production that can be seen on the URBAN-15 Group's [website](#).



Texas Commission on the Arts



www.arts.texas.gov

The Texas Commission on the Arts receives funding from the Texas State Legislature, the National

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