

NEWS FROM TCA

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Celebrating the NEA's 50th Anniversary: Send Us Your Photos

On September 29, the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities marked the 50th anniversary of the signing of the legislation that founded them. The 50th anniversary has at least two special ties to Texas. The legislation was signed into law by President Lyndon Baines Johnson, and quickly led to the creation of the Texas Commission on the Arts (Yes, we're also turning 50!).

TCA is helping to put together a digital collection of photos to commemorate the NEA's 50th anniversary. If you've received NEA funding as an individual artist, as an American Masterpieces artist, or for your organization's work (either directly from the NEA or through TCA), we want to include your photos. Please send high-resolution photos through [Dropbox](#) with caption information (names and professional titles, project titles, year of award) by **October 12**.

October Professional Development Webinar

Is your organization located in a building that is at least 50 years old, a State Antiquities Landmark (or eligible to be one), on the National Register of Historic Places, a Texas Historic Landmark (or eligible to be one), or located in a National Register Historic District?

Are you considering a rehabilitation project or a restoration project, either interior or exterior? Do you need to replace your roof or improve your HVAC system?

If so, join us for the next Professional Development Webinar to learn about a [brand-new rebate](#)

[program](#) operated through the Texas Historical Commission (THC). THC's **Valerie Magolan** will discuss this program on October 21, 2015 at 2 PM CDT. Registration details for the webinar will be emailed soon. Registration is first come, first served, but webinars will be recorded and put online afterward. If you missed earlier webinars in this series, recordings are available [online](#).

Grant Spotlight: Lubbock Symphony Orchestra School Concerts

TCA Arts Respond Project grants support many arts education programs around the state. The [Lubbock Symphony Orchestra](#) (LSO) will use a \$6,500 grant to produce six education concerts for West Texas students in 5th-12th grades. Electronic resources and guidebooks aligned with the National Standards for Arts Education and the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills help prepare students for the concerts, which serve public schools, private schools, and home-schooled students. The program is still growing in attendance, partly due to changes made to the guidebook to align it more closely with secondary school choral teachers' curriculum goals. This year, LSO expects to serve 6,500 youth through their Targeting Teens (for 6th-12th graders) and Listen Live (for 5th graders) school concerts.



The Lubbock Symphony Orchestra performing a Listen Live student concert during the 2014-2015 school year (photo courtesy of LSO)

Strong support for these programs is evident. One of the letters of support the Symphony submitted for their grant application came from Lubbock ISD's Director of Fine Arts, Dr. Christopher Anderson, who noted that nearly 80% of Lubbock ISD students are economically disadvantaged, and wrote, "These concerts become an annual opportunity for students to be exposed to a quality fine arts experience that might not otherwise be available to them. [...] I truly believe that the LSO's involvement with the students helps to provide a much needed outlet of creativity and expression that is crucial to academic development and future success in the community."

A second letter of support came from State Senator Charles Perry, who wrote, "Proven historic research indicates music education/participation fosters learning using the multiple intelligences. Students involved in school music programs consistently demonstrate advanced achievement scores in numerous subjects including math, science and social studies. [...] I feel strongly that this cultural institution contributes greatly to the quality of life in the community of Lubbock and the South Plains Region."

Upcoming TCA Application Deadlines and Updates

TCA has two 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.

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 [TCA Touring Roster](#) to do a performance. These applications are funded based on a percentage of contracted fees.

Activity dates must start: Between December 15, 2015 and March 14, 2016

Application deadline: Midnight on November 2, 2015

Application form: Online

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

Young Masters

Now is the time for exemplary Texas-based arts students in grades 8-11 to apply to the Young Masters program. Young Masters provides financial help for exceptional young artists to pursue advanced study in the areas of visual arts, literary arts, music, theater, dance, musical theater, and media arts. Applications, information and guidelines are available [online](#). Applications and required supporting materials must be **postmarked by November 16, 2015**.

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 will be emailed out this week. 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 current TCA grants. [Please send TCA](#) copies of these thank-you letters.

Texas Touring Roster Applications

The deadline to apply to be listed on the 2016-2018 Texas Touring Roster is January 31, 2016. For this application cycle, **TCA is only accepting new applicants to the Roster**. Those currently on the Roster will be automatically renewed for an additional two years if they so desire. More details on the [application/renewal process](#) will follow in our November newsletter.





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.



Texas Commission on the Arts



www.arts.texas.gov

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