



Texas
Commission
on the Arts

Investing in a Creative Texas

NEWS FROM TCA

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



Texas Touring Roster artist Bernadette Nason's scheduled performance at Austin's Summitt Elementary School was interrupted by a tornado watch last Friday, so she told stories while waiting out the watch in the halls. Photo courtesy of Bernadette Nason and Summitt Elementary.

Applications Open for 2016-2018 Texas Touring Roster

Texas artists, groups, and nonprofits may apply now through January 31, 2016 to be listed on the 2016-2018 Texas Touring Roster. The Texas Touring Roster is a listing of Texas-based artists and companies that tour the state to provide quality arts experiences. It is open to all artistic disciplines: dance, music, theater, literature, storytelling, visual arts, and film/media arts. Being listed on the Texas Touring Roster attests to an artist's quality and allows the artist to refer potential clients to the [Arts Respond Performance Support grant program](#) for partial funding. The current Texas Touring Roster can be viewed [here](#).

Please note that for the 2016 deadline, TCA will only accept new applicants to the Roster. Those currently on the Roster will be automatically renewed for an additional two years if they so desire.

Acceptance on the roster is a highly competitive process that is adjudicated by three discipline-specific panels of arts presenting and touring professionals from across the state. TCA has assembled several resources for interested applicants. The [program guidelines](#) outline the program, its rules, and the application process. The [required attachments checklist](#) shows

materials that should be sent in support of the online application. The [FAQ](#) answers common questions. TCA is also offering a live webinar on Thursday, November 5 from 10:30-11:30 am CST. Space is limited-- [register now](#) to secure a spot. The webinar will be recorded and available on the FAQ page after it is held. TCA program administrators are happy to help applicants with the application process, from getting started to submitting applications. TCA staff will accept draft applications for review and comment up to two weeks before the deadline. To submit a draft, send TCA an [e-mail](#) and request a draft review.

Proposed Changes on IRS Gift Reporting Could Impact Nonprofits

The IRS is taking comments through December 16, 2015 on proposed changes to laws around gifts to nonprofit organizations. The proposed changes to the IRS laws may impact all nonprofit organizations.

The Internal Revenue Service has published [proposed regulations](#) regarding the "contemporaneous written acknowledgement" requirement for contributions of \$250 or more. The IRS is proposing that nonprofits, on a voluntary basis at this time, file an additional new information return with the IRS by February 28 every year and give a copy of it by that date to each contributor of \$250 or more to substantiate the contribution. Among other things, the new return would require the nonprofit to collect the donor's Social Security number, an action which would impose other legal requirements on nonprofits to retain and protect those Social Security numbers from identify theft. (Note: a mandatory version of this return had been [considered and rejected](#) in the past because the proposal raises numerous legal, policy, and confidentiality problems.)

The IRS is accepting [public comments](#) on the [proposed rule change](#) through December 16.

Here are a few tips from the National Council on Nonprofits about submitting comments:

- Typically, there is no required format for your comments. Your comments can be a sentence, a paragraph, or a long statement.
- If you use an online form, your comments may be limited to simple text. Do not assume that hyperlinks will work or that footnotes will be visible.
- Maintain a respectful tone even if the comments express strenuous disagreement with proposed regulations.
- Assume that whatever you file as comments will be made publicly available.

Young Masters Applications Due November 16

November brings the deadline for talented teen artists to apply for the 2016 class of Young Masters, a joint initiative between the Texas Commission on the Arts and the Texas Cultural Trust.

The Young Masters program 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 before college.



Members of the 2014 class of Young Masters with musician Bonnie Bishop (photo: Chris Caselli)

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. Young Masters 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 its 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 the spring of 2016. The 2016 Young Masters recipients will be honored at a star-studded event on Monday, April 25, 2016 in Austin, Texas.

TCA Executive Director Elected President of the Board of the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies



Gary Gibbs, Ph.D.

Congratulations are in order for Gary Gibbs, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Texas Commission on the Arts. In October, Dr. Gibbs was elected to serve a two-year term as president of the board of the [National Assembly of State Arts Agencies](#). TCA is proud to see Dr. Gibbs' leadership strengths recognized on a national level.

The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies is the nonpartisan membership organization that unites, represents and serves the nation's state and jurisdictional arts agencies. Founded in 1968, NASAA represents their individual and collective interests, empowers their work through knowledge, and advances the arts as an essential public benefit.

Free Professional Development Webinars

If you missed the **Texas Historic Building Rehabilitation Program** webinar that TCA offered with the Texas Historical Commission's Valerie Magolan on October 21, good news! All of the professional development webinars are recorded and available on TCA's [Professional Development Vimeo channel](#) for free.

Mark your calendars for the next live Professional Development webinar, which will be held on December 16 at 2 PM CST. Invitations to attend the webinar will be emailed out as the webinar approaches.



Valerie Magolan



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 | 78701