

NEWS FROM TCA: MARCH 2016



Investing in a Creative Texas

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Madison Heggins, a senior at Lewisville High School, clinching her win in the 2016 Texas Poetry Out Loud competition

2016 Texas Poetry Out Loud Winner Named

On Saturday, February 27, 2016, the Texas Commission on the Arts held the state finals competition of the [Poetry Out Loud national poetry recitation contest](#) in Austin. 25 high school students from across Texas competed for a chance to represent the state at the national contest in Washington, D.C. in early May. The winner of that competition receives a \$20,000 scholarship.

The Poetry Out Loud state finals competition was hosted by the **Bullock Texas State History Museum**. The students, each having first won their school competition, were evaluated on qualities such as articulation, evidence of understanding, accuracy and overall performance. Texas' 2015 Poet Laureate **Dr. Carmen Tafolla** served as master of ceremonies for the event. The judges for the competition included poets **Laurie Filipelli**, **Carrie Fountain**, **Brian Francis**, and **Tomás Q. Morín**.

After two rounds, the field was narrowed to five finalists: **Emily Pearson**, a student at Providence High School in San Antonio; **Evan Miller**, a senior at the Hockaday School in Dallas; **Megyn Schweitzer** of Spring's Klein Oak High School; **Sam Terry**, a student at the Keystone School in San Antonio; and **Madison Heggins**, a senior at Lewisville High School in Lewisville. Ultimately, Ms. Heggins won the 2016 Poetry Out Loud state final. As state champion, she will receive \$200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. where she will compete at the national level. Additionally, her school will receive \$500 for the purchase of poetry books and materials. The Texas runner up was Sam Terry. He will receive \$100, while his school will receive \$200 for the purchase of poetry books and materials. TCA congratulates all the 2016 participants, their teachers, and their families.

New Grants Approved at March Commission Meeting

On March 3, TCA Commissioners approved funding of 461 grants in the agency's third funding round for fiscal year 2016. The grants total \$815,888 and will go to nonprofits and units of government in 109 cities. These grants include the second of two funding rounds for the Arts Respond Project program, the quarterly Arts Respond Performance Support program, and the quarterly Commission Initiatives and Designated Funding category. The full list of all FY 2016 grants organized by city is [here](#).

Arts Respond Project grants

- Fund arts-based projects that address one of the priority areas of economic development; education; health and human services; natural resources and agriculture; or public safety and criminal justice
- 278 grants are approved to receive a total of \$550,287 in this program
- Applications came from 226 arts organizations in 57 cities.

Arts Respond Performance Support grants

- Provide partial support to help applicants host an artist from the Texas Touring Roster in their community
- 162 grants will go to 116 organizations and units of government in 69 Texas cities
- These grants total \$151,431.

Commission Initiatives and Designated Funding grants

- Include funding for free performances in designated rural counties by four artists selected from the Texas Touring Roster; support of a national arts conference to be held in Austin; and support of the Mid-America Arts Alliance's programs, grants, and services for Texas
- The program will provide 21 grants totaling \$114,170 to 21 recipients in fourteen

Social Media Covered in Professional Development Webinar Series

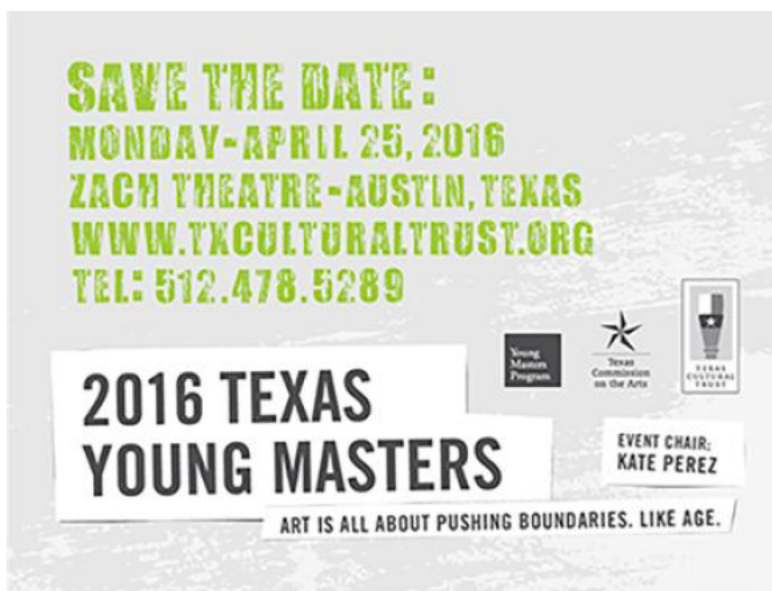
TCA's free professional development webinar series continues to grow in popularity-- last month's webinar, **Social Media: Innovative Engagement**, filled up within one day. If you weren't able to attend the live webinar, the recorded webinar is on TCA's [professional development Vimeo channel](#). TCA sends thanks to the webinar presenter, Alie Cline, who is the Digital Content Strategist for the Blanton Museum of Art in Austin.



Alie Cline

TCA's next professional development webinar will be held on Wednesday, April 20. Look for an email inviting you to register for the webinar as that date approaches.

Texas Cultural Trust to Host Young Masters Celebration



Mark your calendars: our friends at the Texas Cultural Trust (TCT) will present the 2016 Texas Young Masters event on April 25 at Austin's ZACH Theatre with honorary chair **First Lady Cecilia Abbott** and special guest **Holland Taylor**. Young Masters is a joint initiative between the Texas Commission on the Arts and the Texas Cultural Trust awarding 8th through

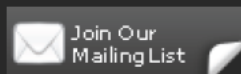
11th grade students grants of \$5,000 a year for two years, and recognizing artistic excellence in students across all artistic disciplines. Since the program's inception in 2002, the TCT and TCA have given 263 grants to 124 previous Young Masters, awarding \$707,500 to aspiring artists from across the state. Tickets will go on sale soon on the Texas Cultural Trust's [website](#).

The 2016 class of Texas Young Masters will be celebrated at an awards ceremony and star-studded concert, with an opening reception at 6:00 pm, and awards ceremony at 7:00 pm. The opening reception will feature a special performance by 2004 Young Master and violin virtuoso **Charles Yang**. Described by the Boston Globe as one who "plays classical violin with the charisma of a rock star," Yang started studying violin as a young child in Austin, and has gone on to international acclaim. He will also be performing during the show, in collaboration with 2014 Young Master and Carnatic percussionist **Jay Appaji**.

Multi-GRAMMY Award winner and Texas Cultural Trust board member **Ray Benson** will emcee the Young Masters ceremony, along with Majic 95.5 afternoon drive personality **Juliet Brandon**. **First Lady Cecilia Abbott**, Honorary Chair, will present the medals to the 2016 class of Young Masters. **Holland Taylor**, EMMY winning actress, will introduce the Young Masters in theatre/musical theatre. Taylor is currently starring in *Ann*, a one-woman portrait of the legendary governor of Texas, for which she has been nominated for a Tony Award. Taylor will perform *Ann* at ZACH Theatre April 6-May 15, 2016.

The show will open with the **Blackshear Elementary Fine Arts Academy chorus**. As the first Elementary Fine Arts Academy in Austin ISD, Blackshear used the arts to help increase enrollment by 20% and was recently named a National Blue Ribbon School. Austin's **Tosca String Quartet** will also perform during the ceremony. Internationally known for their "tango nuevo" performances, the quartet has enjoyed crossover success by performing and/or recording with such artists as Arcade Fire, Spoon, Bonnie Raitt, and Bob Schneider, and on the soundtrack to the arthouse classic *Waking Life* by Richard Linklater. The evening will come to a close with a rousing performance by local favorites, the **Peterson Brothers Band**. Thanks to inspiration from the legends of the past and present, the brothers are helping keep the Blues alive, even with one still in high school and the other just starting college. In addition to their ever-growing list of touring dates, including a Monday night residency at Austin's renowned Continental Club, Glenn and Alex Peterson have been honored by the Austin Chronicle Music Awards, and were twice voted the Best Band in Bastrop County, in addition to having received accolades from the Dallas Examiner and the San Antonio Express-News.

The evening will also feature performances by previous Young Masters, including: **Jared Brown**, 2014 Young Master in Dance; **Morgan Starr**, 2010 Young Master in Dance; **Jay Appaji**, 2014 Young Master in Music; and violinist **Charles Yang**.



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