



Attendees of the recent Rural Arts Roundtable took a tour of the Round Top Festival Institute grounds between animated conversations about challenges, resources, and ideas for rural arts organizations and their communities. Scroll down for more information.

## TCA Commissioners Approve Grant Program Rule Changes

At their December 7 meeting, TCA Commissioners approved a number of changes to the agency's grant guidelines. TCA took public comments on the rule changes in October.

Now that rule changes have been approved, there is a required 20-day waiting period, which means that changes to TCA's Guide to Programs and Services won't be reflected online until January. [This document](#) shows the changes to be made. The changes include:

- Ending the Subgranting component of the Arts Create grant program
- Changing the application limit for [Arts Respond Projects](#) from two to one application per deadline-**effective for the July 15, 2017 application deadline**

- Classifying arts organizations with budgets under \$50,000 into verified and unverified based on whether they filed with the IRS using a Form 990 or 990-EZ (which includes financial data) or an e-postcard 990-N (which contains no financial data)-**effective for the July 15, 2017 application deadline. Applicants are urged to plan ahead.**
- Updating the eligibility rules for [Arts Respond Projects](#) specifying that arts organizations with budgets under \$50,000 that apply must have verified budgets-**effective for the July 15, 2017 application deadline. Applicants are urged to plan ahead.**
- Capping the maximum request amount for [Cultural District Projects](#) at \$250,000
- Adding an annual reporting requirement to [TCA-designated cultural districts](#)
- Making additional changes to update and clarify current guidelines without making rule changes.

These changes were made to help address increased demand on TCA grant programs, recommendations of the Sunset Commission staff, risk reduction, best practices and efficiency. TCA will offer a webinar for arts organizations with budgets under \$50,000 on becoming a verified organization.

## TCA Holds Rural Arts Roundtable

On December 1, TCA convened representatives of rural arts organizations to discuss the challenges, resources, and opportunities that come up in counties with populations under 50,000 people. The roundtable was funded by a National Endowment for the Arts grant that was provided to bring stakeholders together to meet on a specific topic.



*Roundtable attendees heard from funders like the USDA's Paco Valentin.*

Held at the [Round Top Festival Institute](#), the meeting was moderated by TCA Commissioner Mila Gibson of Sweetwater. 19 additional representatives from 15 arts organizations attended, as well as Paco Valentin, State Director of the [United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development](#) programs. Other special guests were Jennifer Ransom Rice and Ellen Mason, Executive Director and Communications Director, respectively, of the [Texas Cultural Trust](#). Mr. Valentin and Ms. Rice provided information on their programs that can assist rural communities, while TCA representatives discussed TCA programs for rural communities.

This was the first meeting that TCA has ever held to convene rural arts professionals, and participants were able to glean new insights from each other and forge new relationships. TCA will be writing up the summary and results of this lively conversation and will make it available to the public shortly. One early conclusion from the roundtable is that it would be beneficial to provide a means for ongoing communication for rural arts organizations through a Facebook group; if you're an artist or arts organization representative in a county with a population of under 50,000, please join the [Texas Rural Arts](#) group on Facebook. TCA extends thanks to all attendees for their participation and to the Round Top Festival Institute for providing the perfect setting for this meeting.

## Upcoming TCA Application Deadlines

TCA has several 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.

#### **Grant Program: Arts Respond Project**

This program provides project assistance grants to nonprofit arts organizations on a short-term basis and may include administrative costs directly related to the project. Projects must address one of the five following priority areas: economic development, education, health & human services, public safety & criminal justice, or natural resources & agriculture.

**Activity dates must be:** Between April 1, 2017 and August 31, 2017

**Application deadline:** Midnight on January 17, 2017

**Application form:** [Online](#)

**Application Limit:** Organizations may submit up to two applications for this deadline. Over the course of TCA's current fiscal year, organizations may address up to four of the priority areas through Arts Respond. Organizations should not submit more than one application addressing the same priority area per fiscal year.

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

#### **Designation Program: Cultural District Designation**

This program designates special zones in cities and Texas communities that harness the power of cultural resources to stimulate economic development and community revitalization.

**Application deadline:** Letter of intent to apply due January 30; application due June 15

**Application form:** On [Cultural Districts Program page](#)

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

#### **Grant Program: 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 [Texas Touring Roster](#) to do a performance. These applications are funded based on a percentage of contracted fees.

**Activity dates must start:** Between March 15, 2017 and June 14, 2017

**Application deadline:** Midnight on February 1, 2017

**Application form:** [Online](#)

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

#### **Grant Program: Arts Create**

This program provides multi-year operational support to arts organizations with established cash budgets over \$50,000. Applicants write their grant for a one-year period, and if funded, will provide an update for the second year. Depending on the availability of funds, the organization's award amount will be the same for two fiscal years.

**Support dates must be:** Between September 1, 2017 and August 31, 2018

**Application deadline:** Midnight on March 1 or March 15. Note: deadline varies depending on organization classification. Your specific deadline will be shown in your TCA online account.

**Application form:** [Online](#)

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

## **Professional Development Webinar: Using Video to Sell Your Programs**

Short videos are important tools that can be used to represent artists and arts organizations in fundraising efforts, event promotion, and building a following. Hear from an expert on how to make low-cost videos to champion your efforts. Bart Weiss, founder of the [Video Association of Dallas](#), presents strategies for making effective videos and will answer your questions

following his presentation. This webinar is particularly recommended for [Arts Create](#) grant applicants. The live webinar is already full, but a recording will be available afterward.



*Bart Weiss will give pointers on how to best make and use short videos.*

[Bart Weiss](#) is an award-winning independent film and video producer, director, editor and educator who has lived in Dallas since 1981. He is mostly known as the director and founder of the Dallas Video Festival. He produces the TV show "Frame of Mind" on KERA TV in Dallas, and is the artistic director of 3 Stars Cinema. He has taught film and video at Texas A&M's Visualization Lab, Southern Methodist University, the University of Texas at Austin, and West Virginia State College, and is currently an Associate Professor at UT Arlington. He is a former president of the Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers (AIVF), former (and founding) board member of Dallas Artists Research and Exhibition (DARE), and founder of the Video Association of Dallas. He has been a video columnist for The Dallas Morning News, Dallas Times Herald, and United Features Syndicate. Bart received an MFA in Film Directing from Columbia University in 1978 and a BA in Radio TV and Film from Temple University in 1975. His films/videos have been shown at the SF Jewish Film Fest, SXSW, the Other Cinema, Kennedy Center, AFI's National Video Festival, the Berlin Media Operative Festival, Sidney and Melbourne film festivals, and many more.

The live webinar will be held Wednesday, December 14 at 2 PM CT. If you can't attend the live webinar or missed any of our earlier ones, you're in luck! All of our professional development webinars are recorded and available on our [Professional Development Vimeo](#) for free.

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## Solving the Holiday Gift Dilemma: Get the Plate that Supports the Arts



Perhaps you're gearing up for some holiday-related gift-giving in the next few months? Perhaps some of the people you're shopping for are hard to find gifts for? Trust us, we understand! If your loved ones live in Texas, we've got a win-win solution for you. Get them [TCA's State of the Arts license plate](#). The plate looks great on all kinds of vehicles, shows Texas pride and support of the arts, and costs a mere \$30 a year in addition to vehicle registration. \$22 of the \$30 fee goes to TCA and straight into our grants budget! TCA is grateful to the many Texas drivers who purchase the State of the Arts license plate, and to the wonderful arts organizations that help [promote it](#) to their patrons.

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## Volunteer for TCA

If you want to learn more about grantwriting or the Texas arts field, consider serving as one of TCA's grant evaluators. There are grant programs that are reviewed online (in the comfort of your home), and others that are reviewed in person at TCA's Austin office. This is a great chance to do your part to help the arts, and to learn more about what is going on across the state. Evaluators must be Texas residents and have experience that allows them to make informed judgements about grant applications. [Nominate](#) yourself, a friend, or a colleague now.

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Texas Commission on the Arts

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<http://www.arts.texas.gov>

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