NEWS FROM TCA: JUNE 2017

Texas Commission on the Arts
Investing in a Creative Texas

arts.texas.gov State of the Arts License Plate Art Jobs

The 2017 and 2018 Texas State Artists have been named! See our article below for more information. *(George Strait photo: Terry Calogne; Jenny Browne photo: Lane Pittard; Carol Coffee Reposa photo: Jasmina Wellinghoff)*

85th Legislature Cuts TCA Budget

Photo: Texas Legislature Online

Texas' 85th Legislative Session ended on Monday, May 29. The approved State budget, addressed in House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 1, reduced TCA's proposed budget by excluding the funds designated for Cultural District Project grants. **The remaining funds will not be sufficient to support the Arts Respond Cultural District Project grant program for designated Cultural District marketing, infrastructure, and events. TCA Commissioners are expected to vote to put this grant program on hiatus at their next meeting on June 21, 2017.** TCA's arts education grants budget was also cut by over $700,000 for the biennium. In total, TCA's new budget is reduced by 28% over the biennium.

You can use this page to read the bills. Since the Texas Legislature meets biennially, it made decisions on two years' worth of State budgeting, including TCA's budget for fiscal year 2018 (September 1, 2017-August 31, 2018) and fiscal year 2019 (September 1, 2018-August 31, 2019). Governor Abbott has through Sunday, June 18 to sign the bill as it stands or to alter it via line item veto.

TCA's Cultural Districts Designation Program Continues

Despite the expected suspension of the Cultural District Project grant program discussed above, TCA will continue to accept applications from communities that want to have their cultural district officially designated by the state of Texas. The goal of TCA's Cultural Districts Designation program mirrors the agency mission to advance the state economically and culturally by investing in a creative Texas. Cultural districts foster economic development and promote cultural tourism while sustaining arts organizations, cultural programs and individual artists.

The Commission has designated 35 cultural districts in 30 communities across the state. These districts work collaboratively to help artists, cultural organizations, and arts-related businesses to thrive in their communities. Cultural districts promote the reuse and revitalization of older urban centers while increasing property values throughout the community in which each district is located. Communities interested in applying for the designation must submit a letter of intent by January 30 and then a full application by June 15 of the same year. The application process is open annually. More information on the process is here.

Texas Names 2017 and 2018 State Artists

Beverly Penn and Beili Liu at the Capitol

TCA congratulates the 2017 and 2018 Texas State Artists, who were appointed by the Texas Legislature on May 18. The 2017 appointees are **Texas Poet Laureate Jenny Browne** of San Antonio, **Texas State Musician George Strait** of San Antonio, **Texas State Two-Dimensional Artist Kermit Oliver** of Waco, and **Texas State Three-Dimensional Artist Beverly Penn** of Austin. The 2018 appointees are **Texas Poet Laureate Carol Coffee Reposa** of San Antonio, **Texas State Musician Marcia Ball** of Austin, **Texas State Two-Dimensional Artist Sedrick Huckaby** of Benbrook, and **Texas State Three-Dimensional Artist Beili Liu** of Austin.

The positions, created by SB 1043 of the 77th Legislature, are filled for one-year terms. The eight appointees for 2017 and 2018 were selected for the exceptional quality of their work and for their outstanding commitment to the arts in Texas. Each Texas State Artist reflects the state's diversity and high-quality artistic offerings. Nominees must be native Texans or have resided in the state for at least five years. They must have attained the highest levels of excellence and success in their respective disciplines and earned a statewide, regional or national reputation for their high caliber work. Detailed biographical information on each of the artists is available here.

Any Texas citizen was able to nominate an artist in any of the four categories and self-nominations were encouraged. TCA reviewed all nominations and developed a list of finalists for submission to the Texas Poet Laureate, State Musician and State Artist Committee. The committee, composed of members appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, made the final selections. The next call for nominations will take place in the fall of 2018.

Upcoming TCA Application Deadlines

TCA has a few 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.

Designation Program: Cultural Districts 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 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 following priority areas: economic development, education, health & human services, public safety & criminal justice, or natural resources & agriculture.
Activity dates must be: Between September 1, 2017 and March 31, 2018
Application deadline: Midnight on July 17, 2017
Application form: Online
Application Limit: NEW-- Organizations may submit one application for this deadline. Over the course of TCA's current fiscal year, organizations may address up to two of the priority areas through Arts Respond. Organizations should not submit more than one application addressing the same priority area per fiscal year.
Eligibility: NEW-- Recent changes to TCA's rules mean that arts organizations with budgets under $50,000 will be required to have their budgets verified (via a form 990 or 990-EZ filed with the IRS) in order to apply for Arts Respond Project grants for the July 17, 2017 deadline. Affected organizations have received notice of this by email, and a webinar was provided to explain the process.
Resources: grant guidelines, contact TCA staff, a link to a recorded webinar about the application process will be sent to eligible account holders.

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 September 1, 2017 and December 14, 2017
Application deadline: Midnight on August 1, 2017
Application form: Online
Resources: grant guidelines, contact TCA staff

Free Professional Development Webinar June 21

TCA's next free professional development webinar will be offered live on **June 21** at 2 PM Central and will cover the **Secret Power of Special Events and Festivals**. Special events and festivals are a great way to increase your organization's visibility and generate revenue for your programs. Presenters Michelle Smythe and Cheryl Votzmeyer of K Space Contemporary in Corpus Christi will share their experiences developing an event that has grown exponentially over the last few years. To help jump start ideas for your own community, TCA staff will provide additional examples of great events across the state. Register for the webinar here. **Please note that the webinar platform TCA uses, GoToWebinar, is transitioning to LogMeIn. We anticipate that this will mean some changes for webinar users, and encourage you to log in to the webinar early so that you have time for any necessary updates.**

Michelle Smythe grew up in Longview. After completing her Master of Fine Arts degree at Stephen F. Austin State University, she moved to Rockport. Shortly thereafter, she joined K Space Art Studios and became heavily involved in Corpus Christi's art scene. In 2001, Smythe co-founded K Space Contemporary, where she has served as the Executive Director since its inception. In addition to overseeing daily operations and organizing art exhibitions, Smythe coordinates public mural projects and organizes community events such as ArtWalk, Contemporary Art Month Corpus Christi and Dia de los Muertos Festival.

Michelle Smythe

Cheryl Votzmeyer

Cheryl Votzmeyer joined K Space Contemporary in May 2014 as Education Coordinator. In that capacity, she works on the Summer Art Camp program and in-house workshops for adults. Further responsibilities include the Kids' Zone and Piñata Contest for the Dia de los Muertos Street Festival. Recent projects are Art in Literacy, in partnership with Corpus Christi La Retama Central Library, which brings storytelling, writing and art to youth in the inner city area; and the Kid's Creative Circle at the Women's Shelter of South Texas, bringing art activities to the children residing at the shelter. Cheryl holds a BFA in Studio Art with a minor in Art History.

If you aren't able to attend the live webinar, or want to catch up on past presentations, good news! All of our professional development webinars are recorded and available on our Vimeo page for free.

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