

A Year in the Life of TCA

A new fiscal year will start for TCA on September 1. This means that much of TCA's summer is spent wrapping up the work of the fiscal year that's ending while simultaneously readying the agency--and assisting applicants--for the grants to come in the next fiscal year. Here's just some of what TCA did in fiscal year 2017:

- Designated seven new [cultural districts](#), Amarillo Cultural District, Arlington Cultural Arts District, Downtown Plano Cultural District, Rockport Cultural Arts District, Salado Art and Cultural District, Texarkana Arts and Historical District, and Waco Downtown Cultural District.
- Provided over 1,650 [grants](#) for arts activities to organizations across the state, totaling over \$8.5 million.
- Those grants include the second year of the Cultural District Project grant program, which provided 17 grants totaling over \$2.7 million to arts nonprofits and local government agencies in 12 different cultural districts in Abilene, Dallas, Fort Worth, Galveston, Houston, Lubbock, San Angelo, and San Antonio.
- Managed the process of selecting the 2017 and 2018 [Texas State Artists](#) for the positions of Texas Poet Laureate, Texas State Musician, Texas State Visual Artist in 2D, and Texas State Visual Artist in 3D.
- Conducted the [Poetry Out Loud](#) recitation contest for the state of Texas, and saw Texas champ Theo Cai win the related Poetry Ourselves writing contest.
- Provided seven free [professional development webinars](#) and recorded them for the Texas arts field's free reference.
- Completed 47 fiscal site visits in Angleton, Austin, Canyon, Clute, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Lago, Fort Worth, Houston, Lake Jackson, San Antonio, Spring, Sugar Land, and The Woodlands. By the end of August, there will be site visits in El Paso, Galveston, Houston, Lamesa, Lubbock, Odessa, and San Elizario, bringing the total fiscal site visits to over 60.

Wondering which deadlines are coming next? TCA's FY2018 grant calendar is online [here](#).

Building Audiences through Arts Education Programs: a Free Professional Development Webinar

TCA's next free professional development webinar is Wednesday, **August 16** at 2 PM CT. Now more than ever, it is critical that arts organizations provide meaningful and substantive education programs for people to experience, engage with, and reflect on the arts. The August webinar will provide best practices for building arts education programs from start to finish. **Stacy Fuller**, former Director of Education and Library Services at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort

Worth, will present **Building Audiences through Arts Education Programs, No Matter the Size of Your Staff or Budget**. Fuller will share proven methods for creating education programs for a variety of audiences, focusing on idea generation; gaining audience, staff, and leadership buy-in; execution; accessibility; and assessment. Participants will be encouraged to reflect on how they can modify the strategies for their institution, regardless of its size or budget. Registration for the live webinar is full, but information on watching the recording is at the bottom of this article.



Stacy Fuller

Presenter Stacy Fuller believes that art has the ability to transform lives, communities, and even society. She is the former Director of Education and Library Services at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art in Fort Worth, where she oversaw the departments of education, library and archives, digital engagement, and visitor studies and services. She worked at the museum from June 2003 until January 2017, holding the positions of Henry E. Luce Foundation Works on Paper Intern (2003), Laura Gilpin Canyon de Chelly Intern (2004), Instructional Services Manager (2004-07), Director of Education (2007-14), and Director of Public Engagement (2014-16). She also spent three years as Registrar for the Meadows Museum on the campus of Centenary College. She has served on the Museum Education Division Development Committee for the National Art Education Association and as vice president of the board of the Museum Education Roundtable. She holds a BA in museum management from Centenary College of Louisiana and an MA in art history from Texas Christian University. Stacy now consults for arts organizations while caring for her young children and mother.

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 [Vimeo page](#) for free.

TCA Grant Updates

Grant Applications for Fiscal Year 2018

The TCA Commissioners will hold their quarterly meeting on **September 6, 2017**. At this meeting, they will make final funding decisions on applications for Arts Create funding, Arts Respond Project funding, and Arts Respond Performance Support funding. They will also consider recommendations for the [Cultural Districts Designation](#) program.

If your organization applied for the [Arts Create](#) grant program or the [Arts Respond Project](#) program, panel comments, scores and recommended funding amounts will soon be posted in your online account. An email will be sent to notify you of this. If your organization applied for an [Arts Respond Performance Support](#) grant program, watch for an email that provides the amount you're recommended to receive.

Grant Reports for Fiscal Year 2017 due September 30, 2017

Reports are due for grant activities that end as TCA's prior fiscal year (September 1, 2016-August 31, 2017) concludes. All Arts Create, Arts Respond Project, and Arts Respond Cultural District Project grant report forms for fiscal year 2017 should be completed and submitted online by **September 30, 2017**. TCA has recorded a short [webinar on filling out the online report form](#) for your assistance.

Grant reports must be submitted and complete before new grants will be paid. Please note that the data collected from these reports is provided to the State of Texas and the National Endowment for the Arts as TCA's main funders. Receiving your complete report on time with appropriate supporting documentation helps TCA make a case for the amount of dollars it receives for its grant budget.

If you have any questions, please contact our program staff for help (scroll to the bottom of [this page](#) to see artistic discipline assignments by staff member).

High Schools: Sign Up Now for Poetry Out Loud



The school year is upon us, which means that TCA is signing up high schools across the state to participate in the [Poetry Out Loud](#) program. Interested educators should [contact TCA soon](#) to sign up and to receive materials in the mail to help them conduct the program during the fall semester.

The Poetry Out Loud recitation contest is a national project of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. This exciting program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. High school students memorize poems and perform them in competition. Each participating high school will hold its competition to determine its school winner by **December 15, 2017**. The school winner will go on to compete at the state competition in Austin on **February 24, 2018**.

At the state level, the winner and runner up receive cash awards and their school libraries receive money to help them buy poetry books. State winners compete in Washington, DC for a pool of \$50,000 in scholarships for students and cash awards for schools. More information on the state competition is [here](#).

Support TCA: Buy and Promote Our License Plate



During this spring's Legislative Session, TCA was bolstered by the many voices supporting our work. Now that the session is over, there are many ways you can continue to show that support. One of the fastest and most direct ways is by buying a Texas State of the Arts license plate. Of the \$30 specialty plate fee, \$22 goes to TCA's grants budget. The license plate also promotes your support of the arts in Texas! You can order a license plate [here](#).

TCA also has [ads](#) that you can run in your printed materials, communications, and online to help your audiences and other community members order the plate. Thank you for your help and support!

Texas Commission on the Arts



anina@arts.texas.gov
<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, the Texas Cultural Trust, and Texas Women for the Arts.

Copyright © 2017. All Rights Reserved.