



One of the ways TCA invests in future professional artists is through the Young Masters program. Scroll down for more information on this grant for exceptional teen artists.

Hurricane Harvey Update

The Texas Commission on the Arts is working with the National Endowment for the Arts to assess the impact of Hurricane Harvey on the arts field in Texas. If your arts organization has been impacted by Harvey and/or subsequent flooding, please [email TCA Deputy Director Jim Bob McMillan](#) or call him at 512/936-6572. We understand that you may not yet know the extent of the damages you have sustained, but please check in with your organization name; your name, title, and contact information; and any information you have about your organization's impacted property. If you are aware of other arts organizations affected by Harvey, please let us know and we'll follow up with them. Professional artists, we'd like to hear from you, too.

Our partners at the Mid-America Arts Alliance are [taking donations](#) for disaster relief for arts organizations in areas of Texas affected by Hurricane Harvey. No administrative fee is being charged to contributions. Distribution of contributions will be made by Mid-America Arts Alliance at the direction of the Texas Commission on the Arts.

We are compiling disaster recovery resources offered by other governmental agencies and

New Grants and Cultural District Approved

On September 6, TCA Commissioners approved funding of 778 grants in the first funding round for fiscal year 2018. The grants total over \$4 million and will go to nonprofits and units of government in 122 cities. These grants include the Arts Create program, which provides operational support to established arts organizations; the first 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. TCA's full list of these fiscal year 2018 grants is [here](#).

TCA Commissioners also approved the designation of one new cultural district. Cultural districts are special zones that harness the power of cultural resources to stimulate economic development and community revitalization. These districts can become focal points for generating business, attracting tourists, stimulating cultural development and fostering civic pride. The new cultural district is the Downtown Corpus Christi Cultural District. This designation brings the total number of [cultural districts in Texas](#) to 36.

[Arts Create](#) grants provide year-round operational support to Texas arts organizations with budgets over \$50,000. For fiscal year 2018, 378 Arts Create grants totaling over \$3 million are allocated to 378 organizations in 75 Texas cities.

[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. For the first round of these grants for fiscal year 2018, applications came from 243 arts organizations in 49 cities. 243 grants are approved to receive a total of \$758,789 in this program.

[Arts Respond Performance Support](#) grants provide partial support to help applicants host an artist from the [Texas Touring Roster](#) in their community. The 156 grants for this quarter total \$169,469 and will go to 113 organizations and units of government in 76 Texas cities.

The [Commission Initiatives and Designated Funding grant](#) for this quarter distributed \$17,500 received from the National Endowment for the Arts to conduct the [Poetry Out Loud](#) high school competition in Texas.

Grant Reports and Revised Budgets Due

If your organization was approved to receive an Arts Respond Project grant or an Arts Create grant for fiscal year 2018 (September 1, 2017-August 31, 2018), you will have some paperwork to do before your new grant(s) can be paid.

Revised Budgets: Due September 30, 2017

Each funded FY18 Arts Create or Arts Respond Project grant will have a revised budget form that should be filled out and submitted online.

Grant Reports: Due September 30, 2017

Reports are due for grant activities that ended as TCA's prior fiscal year (September 1, 2016-August 31, 2017) concluded. 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. 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.

Applications Open for 2018 Young Masters



The Texas Commission on the Arts and the [Texas Cultural Trust](#) are accepting applications for the 2018 class of Young Masters, a joint initiative that 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, folk arts, music, theater, dance, musical theater, and media arts.

The state's most talented young artists will receive the title of "Young Master" and are awarded grants of \$5,000 per year to further their studies in their chosen arts disciplines. Students 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 ninth class of Young Masters. The Trust and TCA have given 313 grants to 139 previous Young Masters, awarding \$857,500 to aspiring artists since the program's inception in 2002.

Applications, information and guidelines are available [online](#). Applications and required supporting materials must be submitted by **November 15, 2017**. 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

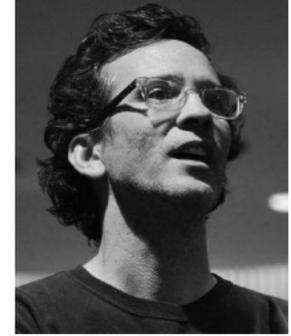
specialized course of study or receiving private lessons from a qualified professional instructor. They must also maintain passing grades in all academic areas. The Young Masters will be selected by a citizen panel of experts from across the state based on artistic excellence, level of commitment and quality of their proposed plan of study. Disbursement for this class of Young Masters will begin in the spring of 2018. The 2018 Young Masters recipients will be honored at a star-studded event on Monday, April 16, 2018 in Austin.

Professional Development Webinar: Engaging Veterans in Your Programs

Giving back to veterans through the arts can help them heal, reintegrate into civilian society, and express their experiences. In TCA's next free professional development webinar, Jonathan Wei of [The Telling Project](#) will discuss involving veterans in your programs. Join us on Wednesday, **October 18 at 2 PM** as Jonathan shares his experiences, lessons learned, and best practices for working with veterans. A webinar invitation will

be sent out as the date approaches. As always, these webinars are provided for free, and [a recording of the live webinar](#) will be posted afterward.

Jonathan Wei, the founder and director of The Telling Project, is a playwright, writer and producer. His work has been staged at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Guthrie Theater, the Library of Congress, the Maryland Center for the Performing Arts, and the Alley Theatre, among others. His fiction and nonfiction have appeared in The Village Voice, The Iowa Review, The North American Review, and Glimmer Train; his work has been featured in the New York Times, Washington Post, Baltimore Sun, Inside Higher Ed, the Associated Press, and NPR. He is a recipient of a Congressional Commendation, an Emmy Award, and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. A winner of the Glimmer Train Fiction Open, Jonathan lives with his family in Austin.



Jonathan Wei

The Telling Project is a performing arts nonprofit that employs theater to deepen our understanding of the military and veterans' experience. Greater understanding fosters receptivity, easing veterans' transitions back to civil society, and allowing communities to benefit from the skills and experience they bring with them. Through this understanding, a community deepens its connection to its veterans, itself, and its place in the nation and the world.

Poetry Out Loud

The Texas Commission on the Arts is signing up high schools across the state to participate in the [Poetry Out Loud](#) program. Interested educators should [contact TCA](#) by September 30 to sign up to 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 in February 2018.

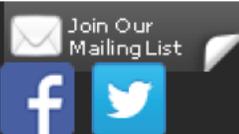
At the state level, the winner and runner up receive cash awards and their school libraries receive money to help them buy poetry books. State winners compete in Washington, DC for a pool of \$50,000 in scholarships for students and cash awards for schools. More information on the state competition is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





San Antonio's Eva Ybarra is a 2017 National Heritage Fellowship recipient! The National Endowment for the Arts will celebrate the 2017 National Heritage Fellows at two events this month in Washington, DC, both of which are free and open to the public. The NEA National Heritage Fellowships Awards Ceremony will take place at the Library of Congress on Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 5:30 PM and the NEA National Heritage Fellowships Concert will take place on Friday, September 15, 2017 at 8:00 PM at George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium. The concert will be webcast live at [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov).

Photo by David Dodd used courtesy of Texas Folklife



Texas Commission on the Arts

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