

NEWS FROM TCA: FEBRUARY 2018



Investing in a Creative Texas

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The Texas Creative Forces Arts and Military Conference was held in Killeen on January 29 & 30. TCA thanks the partners, attendees, and [special guests](#) who came together to discuss how the arts can assist with healing and serving members of the military community. Creative Forces is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Americans for the Arts provides administrative support for the project. Storyteller Eldrena Douma, pictured above, was one of several Texas Touring Roster artists in attendance.

Texas Poetry Out Loud Finals February 24

The Texas Commission on the Arts will host the Texas Poetry Out Loud recitation contest for high school students at 1:00 pm on Saturday, February 24, in Austin. The finals, graciously hosted by the Bullock Texas State History Museum, will be open to the public and free to attend. 27 students will represent their schools in the competition. The event will be hosted by internationally renowned Texas poet Naomi Shihab Nye.



2017 Texas Poetry Out Loud competitors

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. 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.

Professional Development Webinar: An Insider's View of Corporate Funding

TCA has a powerhouse to kick off our fourth year of professional development webinars-and you must agree with us, since this webinar is already full! **Joy Partain** will bring eight years of experience as a corporate funder (most recently at the Kroger Company) to present tips for approaching corporate funders and mistakes to avoid on **February 21, 2018 at 2 PM**. Many nonprofits are not sure where to start when it comes to soliciting corporate donations. Others have successfully received donations but have trouble maintaining their relationships with corporate funders.

Joy Partain's career has spanned a variety of nonprofit and for-profit settings. She is a recognized leader in the Greater Houston community's civic and philanthropic scene, and she brings nearly two decades of experience in public relations, corporate philanthropy, brand management, and government affairs. She has led teams at Houston Grand Opera, Fort Worth Opera, Amegy Bank, and the Kroger Company. This month, she joins the Asia Society Texas Center as its deputy executive director. She is a frequent guest lecturer on corporate philanthropy and cause marketing at seminars and conferences. She is also a Leadership Houston Class XXXIII fellow.



Joy Partain

If you weren't able to reserve a spot in the live webinar, we have good news! The recorded video will be made available for free on our [Professional Development Vimeo page](#).

Coming Soon: 2018 Young Masters

Next month, the Texas Commission on the Arts and the Texas Cultural Trust (TCT) will name the 2018 class of [Young Masters](#). The Young Masters program is 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, music, theater, dance, musical theater, and media arts. The 2018 Young Masters will



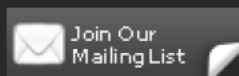
be awarded grants of \$5,000 per year for two years to further their studies in their chosen arts disciplines before college. The Trust and TCA have given 313 grants to 139 previous Young Masters, awarding \$857,500 to aspiring artists since the program's inception in 2002. The program received 315 applications for the November 15, 2017 deadline.

Mark your calendars: the Texas Cultural Trust will celebrate the 2018 Texas Young Masters at a star-studded event on **April 16** at Austin's **ZACH Theatre**. Tickets will go on sale soon. For more information, visit txculturaltrust.org.

News from Our Partner Organization, the Texas Cultural Trust

How can you awaken and nurture the artist in every Texas child? Join the **Texas Women for the Arts (TWA)**, an important giving circle of the Texas Cultural Trust that increases access to arts education for children across the state. Since inception, more than \$1.7 million in grants have been awarded to arts education programs reaching more than one million children. Additionally, TWA members have the opportunity to travel around the country and experience unique and exclusive art and culture activities. [Become a member](#) today.

Texas Cultural Trust Arts & Digital Literacy Grants are now available! Since 2015, the Trust has awarded over \$75,000 to Texas teachers who have committed to becoming Digital Pioneers and meaningfully integrate technology into their creative classrooms. Learn more [here](#).



Texas Commission on the Arts

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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, Texas Women for the Arts, and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.