NEWS FROM TCA: MARCH 2018

Texas Commission on the Arts
Investing in a Creative Texas

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Congratulations to Texas' 2018 Poetry Out Loud champ, Ariel Warren. Scroll down for more on the state competition. Photo: Josiane Amezcua

15 Texas Students Selected for 2018 Young Masters Grants

The Texas Commission on the Arts and the Texas Cultural Trust are proud to announce the 2018 class of Young Masters. Young Masters is a grant program that provides

exemplary art 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. This year's promising young students come from 11 cities and together display a variety of artistic talents.

THE 2018 CLASS OF TEXAS YOUNG MASTERS:

Antonio Ajero, 8th Grade, Nacogdoches, *Music/Piano*
Noah Avelar, 11th Grade, Corpus Christi, *Music/Percussion*
Tobi Berman, 11th Grade, Fort Worth, *Musical Theater*
Riley Canterbury, 9th Grade, Dallas, *Dance*
Joziah German, 9th Grade, Dallas, *Dance*
Elizabeth Heyns, 11th Grade, Lantana, *Visual Arts/Special Effects Makeup*
Mikayla Johnson, 11th Grade, Floresville, *Theater*
Megan Lin, 11th Grade, Plano, *Music/Violin*
Lauren Mathews, 9th Grade, Katy, *Music/Cello*
Aisha Mpiana, 11th Grade, Dallas, *Visual Arts*
Ava Noble, 11th Grade, Dallas, *Dance*
Isha Parupudi, 11th Grade, Friendswood, *Dance/Indian Classical Dance*
Ian Stripling Jenson, 11th Grade, Austin, *Music/Violin*
Leif Tilton, 9th Grade, Austin, *Music/Classical Guitar*
Lauren Yang, 11th Grade, Sugar Land, *Visual Arts*

The state's most talented young artists 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 updated application. This gifted group of 15 students represents the ninth class of Young Masters. Since the program's inception in 2002, the TCT and TCA have given 328 grants to 154 Young Masters, awarding $932,500 to aspiring artists from across the state.

In order to be considered for the Young Masters 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. Young Masters are 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 action.

The Texas Cultural Trust will present the 2018 class of Young Masters during an awards ceremony and concert on April 16th at Austin's ZACH Theatre. First Lady Cecilia Abbott serves as honorary chair for the event and Ashley Covert, Gerardo Interiano, Maya Smart, and Natasa Valocchi are event chairs. The evening will feature Texas Young Masters alumni, Conspirare, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Cruz Ortiz, and an original composition by Allen Robertson. More information on the event, including tickets, is available here.

2018 Texas Poetry Out Loud Winner Named

On Saturday, February 24, 2018, the Texas Commission on the Arts held the state finals competition of the Poetry Out Loud national poetry recitation contest in Austin. 25 high school students from across Texas competed for a chance to represent the state at the national contest in Washington, D.C. in early May. The winner of that competition receives a $20,000 scholarship.

2018 Texas Poetry Out Loud competitors

The Poetry Out Loud state finals competition was hosted by the Bullock Texas State History Museum. The students, each having first won their school competition, were evaluated on qualities such as articulation, evidence of understanding, accuracy and overall performance. Internationally renowned poet Naomi Shihab Nye served as master of ceremonies for the event. The judges for the competition, Dr. Joe Bratcher III, Joe Brundidge, Katherine Catmull, and ire'ne lara silva, are Texas poets, writers, and/or theater artists.

After two rounds, the field was narrowed to five finalists: Destinee Aguirre, a student at Lewisville High School in Lewisville; Sewar Almasalha of Spring's Klein Oak High School; Josephine Dawson, who attends The Hockaday School in Dallas; Yobany Pizano, a sophomore at Killough High School in Lewisville; and Ariel Warren, a sophomore at Harmon High School in Lewisville. Ultimately, Ms. Warren won the 2018 Poetry Out Loud state final. As state champion, she will receive $200 and an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C. where she will compete at the national level. Additionally, her school will receive $500 for the purchase of poetry books and materials. The Texas runner up was Yobany Pizano. He will receive $100, while his school will receive $200 for the purchase of poetry books and materials. TCA congratulates all the 2018 participants, their teachers, and their families.

Professional Development Webinar Series: Social Media; Corporate Funding; Navigating Crisis

Joy Partain

TCA's free professional development webinar series continues to grow in popularity. Last month's webinar, **An Insider's View of Corporate Funding**, filled up quickly. If you weren't able to attend the live webinar, the recorded webinar is on TCA's professional development Vimeo channel. TCA sends thanks to the webinar presenter, **Joy Partain**, who provided excellent resources for fundraisers.

TCA's next professional development webinar, **Social Media: Cultivating & Retaining your Online Audience**, will be held at 2 PM Central on Wednesday, April 18. **Lizabel Stella**, the Social Media & Content Manager at the Blanton Museum of Art in Austin, will discuss key tips and strategies to help users optimize their presence online. Lizabel will share case studies and resources to help with efficiency and creativity in social media. Register now to reserve your spot in the webinar!

Lizabel Stella

Lizabel Stella has worked in social media management for over six years, focused on crafting engaging, thoughtful content with a global perspective. Before moving to Austin in 2016, she worked for over fifteen years in a wide variety of industries including software as a service, online retail, human resources, and public service. This has helped hone her communication skills, leading her to focus on applying an authentic, human approach to her work. Lizabel was the 1st Social Media Strategist in London for Austin's leading enterprise social media software company Spredfast, meeting with thought leaders at key tech festivals including SXSW and Social Media Week. She has been responsible for managing the content strategy and community management for businesses with audiences ranging from 200 to 2 million on Facebook and consulted for and talked on panels for Social Media Week, Austin Music Foundation, and the UK Department for International Trade. She feels honored to have supported the Blanton Museum of Art for the opening of the Ellsworth Kelly's "Austin" building, and looks forward to supporting the Austin community and beyond through her expertise.

Can't wait for the next live webinar? We recorded a **bonus webinar** on navigating crisis last month because it's important to have a plan in place when a crisis arises. In this recorded webinar, **Michael Perry** of Catalyst Executive Advising and Development provides important tips and tools for navigating crisis for you and your organization.

New Grants Approved at March Commission Meeting

On March 8, TCA Commissioners approved funding 388 grants in TCA's third funding round for fiscal year 2018. The grants total $868,310 and will go to nonprofits and units of government in 119 cities. These grants include the second of two funding rounds for the Arts Respond Project program, the quarterly Arts Respond Performance Support program, and the quarterly Designated Funding/Commission Initiatives category. The full list of FY 2018 grants organized by city is here.

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
* 215 grants are approved to receive a total of $634,424 in this program
* Applications came from 215 arts organizations in 56 cities.

Arts Respond Performance Support grants

* Provide partial support to help applicants host an artist from the Texas Touring Roster in their community
* 153 grants will go to 124 organizations and units of government in 81 Texas cities
* These grants total $138,386.

Commission Initiatives and Designated Funding grants

* Include funding for free performances in designated rural counties by four artists selected from the Texas Touring Roster; Young Masters grant payments; and support of the Mid-America Arts Alliance's programs, grants, and services for Texas
* The program will provide 20 grants totaling $95,500 to 20 recipients in thirteen cities.

Among the March grants approved by TCA Commissioners is an Arts Respond Performance Support application for Texas Touring Roster group Bruce Wood Dance to perform in Big Spring. The picture shows a scene from one of the pieces that will be performed there, Lovett! Set to six of 2011 Texas State Musician Lyle Lovett's most popular tunes, Lovett! showcases Bruce Wood's love for his home state of Texas and reflects on his time spent as a rodeo rider. The Texas Commission on the Arts is proud to help bring more art to more of Texas. Photo: Sharen Bradford.

News from Our Partner Organization, the Texas Cultural Trust

More than 300 young artists applied to be in the 2018 class of Texas **Young Masters**. Want to be a part of the 2018 Young Masters' development? Join the Texas Cultural Trust in investing in the creative future of Texas by supporting Young Masters today!

The Texas Cultural Trust is accepting nominations for the 2019 **Texas Medal of Arts Awards**. This biennial event celebrates influential artists, entertainers, and art patrons of Texas through a series of events, culminating with a star-studded awards show and gala dinner, which will be held in Austin, February 26-27, 2019. **Nominations will be accepted through April 5, 2018.** Nominees must have been born or raised in Texas or developed a major portion of their work in Texas to qualify. Awardees must be present at the 2019 TMAAs to receive their award. Nomination forms and eligibility can be found here. For complete information about the Texas Medal of Arts Awards, click here.

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

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