



It's Travel and Tourism Week! Get out there and see more of Texas! Photo: J. Griffis Smith/TxDOT

Texas Celebrates Impact of the Travel and Tourism Industry During National Travel and Tourism Week, May 5-11

The Texas Commission on the Arts is part of a group of State agencies that work together to promote and support travel in Texas, including cultural tourism.

In recognition of the travel and tourism industry's positive economic impact on the state of Texas, Governor Greg Abbott has designated May 5-11 as **Travel and Tourism Week in Texas**, in conjunction with the U.S. Travel Association's 36th annual National Travel and Tourism Week.

The travel and tourism industry is one of the most important drivers of the Texas economy, generating an estimated \$80.2 billion in 2018 direct travel spending, resulting in \$164 billion of economic impact. The value of travel to and within Texas affects every Texas citizen. Without travel, each Texas household would pay an additional \$740 in state and local taxes to make up for the revenue loss.

When it comes to job growth, the travel and tourism industry continues to thrive. Jobs supported by travel grew for the eighth consecutive year in 2018, climbing to 1.2 million Texas jobs. Travel-supported jobs are present across many sectors of the economy including leisure

and hospitality, transportation, retail trade, services, finance, real estate, construction, insurance and more.

Along with the many Texans traveling within the state, Texas welcomed an estimated 72.5 million out-of-state visitors last year. Opening the door to new experiences, the Lone Star State is a must-visit destination, with its warm sandy beaches and picturesque mountains, iconic landmarks, diverse urban centers and unexpected gems around each corner.

Throughout the week, Travel Texas, along with the [U.S. Travel Association](#), will highlight the countless ways in which travel enriches lives and strengthens communities. The theme of this year's Travel and Tourism Week will unpack the many reasons that "Travel Matters" to American jobs, economic growth and personal well-being.

For more details about National Travel and Tourism Week and the economic impact of travel in Texas, please visit www.travel.texas.gov. Inspired to plan your next trip in Texas? Check out www.traveltexas.com.

Texas Legislative Session Update



Texas' 86th Legislative Session will end later this month, on May 27, 2019. Currently, a conference committee made up of five members each of the House and Senate will reconcile the differences between HB 1 and SB 1 and submit the revisions to each chamber for approval. In the case of TCA's funding request, HB 1 includes all three of TCA's Exceptional Items (requests for additional funding), while SB 1 includes Exceptional Items 1 and 3.

TCA's Exceptional Items are:

- Exceptional Item #1 - Restore Cultural Districts Project (CDP) Grants Base-Level Funding
TOTAL: \$5,000,000 over the biennium.
- Exceptional Item #2 - Arts Healing Grants for Active Service Members and Veterans
TOTAL: \$500,000 over the biennium.
- Exceptional Item #3 - CAPPs Financials Implementation
TOTAL: \$50,000 over the biennium.

You can use [this page](#) to follow the progress of each bill.

Since the Texas Legislature meets biennially, it will make decisions on two years' worth of State budgeting, including TCA's budget for fiscal year 2020 (September 1, 2019-August 31, 2020) and fiscal year 2021 (September 1, 2020-August 31, 2021).

TCA Grant Updates

Arts Create Panel Meetings

TCA will be convening nine peer panels in April and May to review the [Arts Create grant](#) applications. The panels are organized by artistic discipline and will meet April 23-May 23. Observing the panel meetings can provide information on the review process and the concerns of the panel. Applicants and other members of the public can observe the panels at TCA's office but cannot provide any input. Attending the meetings is not required of applicants.

April 23: Local Arts Agencies panel meeting
April 25-26: Multidiscipline panel meeting
April 30: Media Arts panel meeting
May 2-3: Dance panel meeting
May 6: Literary Arts panel meeting
May 8-10: Theater panel meeting
May 13-15: Music panel meeting
May 17: Presenting panel meeting
May 21-23: Visual Arts panel meeting

Panels are composed of arts administrators from across the state. TCA is extremely grateful for the time and expertise that the evaluators give to this important process.

Legislation to Watch

As described above, TCA has two requests pending in this legislative session that could have fairly immediate impact on upcoming grants, so be prepared to act.

Cultural District Projects

TCA has requested \$5 million in this program across the next two years. If these funds are secured, TCA will be taking applications for this grant program by **June 17, 2019**. [Here](#) are those grant guidelines.

Arts Healing Grants for Active Service Members and Veterans

TCA has requested \$500,000 in this program across the next two years. If these funds are secured, TCA will be taking applications for this grant program by **July 15, 2019** as a subset of the Arts Respond Project Health and Human Services priority area. Remember these grants are most competitive when you have a solid partnership in place, as demonstrated by letters of support, so plan ahead now! [Here](#) are those grant guidelines.

Texas Poetry Out Loud Winner at National Competition



*Ariel-Lynn Warren
Photo: Amanda Klaus*

Ariel-Lynn Warren, Texas' 2019 [Poetry Out Loud](#) winner, competed in the national contest in Washington, DC, on April 30. The national competition starts with a day of three semi-finals broken up by region. Ariel-Lynn, who is completing her junior year at Lewisville High School in Lewisville, recited "A Celebration of Charis: I. His Excuse for Loving" by Ben Jonson, "Blade, Unplugged" by Tim Seibles, and "Quite Frankly" by Mark Halliday. At the end of the semi-final, **Ariel-Lynn received honorable mention for her region, earning her \$1,000**. Her school received \$500 for their library to purchase poetry books and materials. The top three competitors in each semi-final moved on to the next day's event: the national finals.

Ultimately, Minnesota's [Isabella Callery](#) took the top prize of \$20,000 and bragging rights as the 2019 Poetry Out Loud national winner. Congratulations to Isabella, Ariel-Lynn, and the other students who represented their states on the national stage.

The Poetry Out Loud recitation contest is a national project of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. High school students memorize poems and perform them in competition, mastering public speaking skills, building self-confidence, and learning about

their literary heritage along the way. The Texas Commission on the Arts conducts the program at the state level.

A Unique Gift: Get the Plate that Supports the Arts

Perhaps you're trying to find the perfect Mother's Day or graduation gift this month? Perhaps some of the people you're shopping for are hard to find gifts for? Trust us, we understand! If your loved ones live in Texas, we've got a win-win solution for you. Get them TCA's State of the Arts license plate at <http://tinyurl.com/TXartsLP>. The plate looks great on all kinds of vehicles, shows Texas pride and support of the arts, and costs a mere \$30 a year in addition to vehicle registration. \$22 of the \$30 fee goes into TCA's grants budget! TCA is grateful to the many Texas drivers who purchase the State of the Arts license plate, and to the wonderful arts organizations that help promote it to their patrons.



Get the plate and support the arts!

What to Expect When Building a Building: Free Professional Development Webinar



Becky Duval Reese

TCA's next live webinar, **What to Expect When Building a Building**, will be offered at 2 PM Central on Wednesday, June 19. Is it time to move your organization to a new facility, but you don't know where to start? Learn what to consider, starting with assessing your building needs as an organization. **Becky Duval Reese**, former Executive Director of the El Paso Museum of Art, will address questions like:

- When is it time for a new building?
- How do you make decisions about space?
- Should you make sure the architect has experience with museums, theaters, nonprofits, etc.?
- What are the elements of the building where you need to budget more than you think?
- What about practical decisions like material selection?
- How can organizations prevent overreaching in terms of space? What if it's too big and expensive to run?
- What do you need to know about capital campaigns?
- How do you rework your budget in the future for operational costs of the building?
- What are the surprising things about the process? How do you handle the unexpected?

[Register for the webinar now](#) to reserve your spot!

As director of the El Paso Museum of Art (1991-2005), Becky Duval Reese oversaw the completion of a new 104,000 square foot building located in downtown El Paso. During her tenure the museum's collections grew by more than 1,000 objects. Her achievements resulted in a museum nationally recognized both for the strength of its collections and for its new building. Her museum career began at New Mexico State University where she was founding director of the University Art Gallery. From 1976 to the spring of 1991 she was educational curator, assistant director, and then interim director of the Archer M. Huntington Art Gallery

(now the Blanton Museum of Art) at the University of Texas at Austin. She served on the Texas Association of Museums Council in the early 1980s and has served the Texas Fine Arts Association in various capacities from board member to president. She has served as a field reviewer for the Institute of Museum and Library Services and as panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Texas Commission on the Arts.

If you missed the **Preparing for the Worst** webinar we offered on April 17 with the **Houston Ballet**, good news! All of our professional development webinars are recorded and available at <https://www.vimeo.com/txartspd> for free. We all hope for the best, but sometimes the worst does happen. Whether the threat is a natural disaster, financial uncertainty, or unexpected changes in leadership, it is important for organizations to create contingency plans before an emergency hits. In this webinar, the team at Houston Ballet share how they prepared for and recovered from the destruction of Hurricane Harvey. You'll hear from Houston Ballet's Executive Director, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Development Officer, and Director of Marketing and Public Relations, on how they navigated insurance claims, developed communications plans, and reimagined, rescheduled, and reticketed the 2017/18 performance season.

Catching Up with Young Master My'Kal Stromile (Dance, 2012)

Since its inception in 2002, the [Young Masters](#) grant program has supported 328 Texas high school students' studies in the arts. We're using this month's newsletter to share an update from one of our recent Young Master alumni.

In 2012, My'Kal Stromile was named a Young Master in dance by the Texas Commission on the Arts. The Young Masters grant funding he received helped him attend the Juilliard School Summer Dance Intensive in New York City. For his second year of funding, My'Kal studied at the 2013 Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet Summer Program in New York City. After graduating from the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing & Visual Arts in 2014, My'Kal attended Juilliard, graduating in 2018. Last month, this recent college graduate was featured in an [article](#) about his return to Dallas to choreograph a new work for Dallas Black Dance Theatre.



My'Kal Stromile (center). Photo: Brooke Trisolini

"The Texas Young Masters program gave me an opportunity to expand my training while being the tool that would eventually help to expose me to all aspects of the performing arts. After I received my award I went on to Booker T Washington HSPVA, The Juilliard School, and now Boston Ballet. I am so grateful for all of the things that have led me to where I am today!"

Along with our partners at the [Texas Cultural Trust](#), TCA is proud to have been a part of My'Kal's early development as an artist, and we can't wait to see what he does next!



Texas Commission on the Arts

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