



Las Tesoros de San Antonio: (l-r) Blanquita "Blanca Rosa" Rodríguez and Beatriz "La Paloma del Norte" Llamas, pictured here with Janet "Perla Tapatia" Cortez and Rita "La Calandria" Vidaurri. Photo courtesy of Esperanza Peace & Justice Center.

Texans Named National Heritage Fellows

Congratulations to San Antonio's **Las Tesoros de San Antonio (Beatriz "La Paloma del Norte" Llamas and Blanquita "Blanca Rosa" Rodríguez)**, who were recently named one of the 2019 National Heritage Fellows by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Janet "Perla Tapatia" Cortez, Beatriz "La Paloma del Norte" Llamas, Blanquita "Blanca Rosa" Rodríguez, and Rita "La Calandria" Vidaurri each had incredible singing careers that soared both locally and internationally in the 1940s-1960s before tapering off in later years. Through the [Esperanza Peace & Justice Center](#) in San Antonio, these women reemerged and teamed up as the group Las Tesoros de San Antonio in the 2000s. Although Janet "Perla Tapatia" Cortez and Rita "La Calandria" Vidaurri passed away in recent years, Llamas and Rodríguez continue to perform and maintain the legacy of the group. "We're pleased to see Las Tesoros get this well-deserved recognition, which has been awarded in the past to Texas musicians such as Eva Ybarra, Johnny Gimble, and Barbara Lynn," said TCA executive director Gary Gibbs, Ph.D. "TCA extends our heartiest congratulations."

All four women grew up in the Westside of San Antonio. Each singer, with her personal style and grace, formed part of this unique ensemble that represents the important sounds of the Mexico/Texas border. They were all inspired by and connected to many other important Tejana

singers, including the great Lydia Mendoza (1982 NEA National Heritage Fellow) and the internationally renowned Eva Garza. Las Tesoros de San Antonio are part of the [Texas Touring Roster](#). Full bios of Ms. Llamas and Ms. Rodríguez are available [here](#).

For the past 37 years, the NEA has presented National Heritage Fellowships to celebrate and honor master artists working in the folk and traditional arts. As one of the ten 2019 National Heritage Fellowship recipients, Las Tesoros de San Antonio will receive \$25,000 and be honored in Washington, DC, this September. "The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to recognize these artists and the important role they play in our nation's vibrant cultural landscape," said Mary Anne Carter, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. "Whether it's through storytelling, mentoring, or performance, these Heritage Fellows are committed to sharing their art forms with others."

The NEA will celebrate the 2019 National Heritage Fellows at two events this fall 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's Thomas Jefferson Building at 10 First Street SE in Washington, DC on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at 5:30 PM. The **NEA National Heritage Fellowships Concert** will take place at Shakespeare Theatre Company's Sidney Harman Hall at 610 F Street NW in Washington, DC on Friday, September 20, 2019 at 8:00 PM. More concert details and ticket information will be available later this summer. The concert will also be webcast live at [arts.gov](#).

Texas Legislative Session Outcomes

TCA's budget for 2020 and 2021 is official! On June 15, Governor Abbott signed the budget into law as part of House Bill 1.

The budget adds the following amounts to TCA's base budget:

-Exceptional Item #1 - Restore Cultural Districts Project (CDP) Grants Base-Level Funding

TOTAL: \$10,000,000 over the biennium.

-Exceptional Item #2 - Arts Healing Grants for Active Service Members and Veterans

TOTAL: \$250,000 over the biennium.

-Exceptional Item #3 - CAPPs Financials Implementation

TOTAL: \$50,000 over the biennium.

As well, the joint Conference Committee provided an additional \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2020 to provide a grant to the Flower Mound Cultural Arts Commission to construct a community cultural and performing arts center.

With the additional amounts, TCA's budget totals \$16,443,038 for fiscal year 2020 and \$11,493,038 for fiscal year 2021. You can use [this page](#) to review the text of House Bill 1.

TCA is grateful for the support of Governor Abbott, the Texas Senate and the Texas House, our partners at [Texans for the Arts](#) and the [Texas Cultural Trust](#), and for the many members of the Texas arts field who advocated for our work. We look forward to granting these funds out across the state.

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 *State of the Arts* license plate. Of the \$30 specialty plate fee, \$22 goes to TCA's grants budget. The license plate also shows 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. Ad files are available [here](#). Thank you for your help and support!

Upcoming Application Deadlines

TCA has two grant programs with upcoming deadlines. As always, the TCA staff is happy to discuss your organization's goals and eligibility to determine which programs are right for you. You may also request that a TCA staff member review your application and provide feedback. Ideally, these requests would be made at least two weeks before the application deadline.

Grant Program: Arts Respond Project

This program provides project assistance grants to nonprofit arts organizations on a short-term basis and may include administrative costs directly related to the project. Projects must address one of the following priority areas: economic development, education, health & human services, public safety & criminal justice, or natural resources & agriculture. **This program includes new funding specifically for art healing grants for active service members and veterans in the health & human services priority area.**

Activities must start: Between September 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020

Application deadline: Midnight on July 15, 2019

Application form: [Online](#)

Resources: [Grant guidelines](#), [contact TCA staff](#)

A link to a recorded webinar about the application process has been sent to eligible account holders.

Grant Program: Arts Respond Performance Support

This program provides professional artist fees to Texas nonprofits, schools, colleges, and units of government for hiring an artist from the [Texas Touring Roster](#) to do a performance. These applications are funded based on a percentage of contracted fees.

Activity dates must start: Between September 1, 2019 and December 14, 2019

Application deadline: Midnight on August 1, 2019

Application form: [Online](#)

Resources: [Grant guidelines](#), [contact TCA staff](#)

Decisions on applications for [Arts Create](#), Arts Respond Performance Support, Arts Respond Project Support, [Cultural Districts Designation](#), and [Cultural District Project](#) applications will be made at the September 5, 2019 Commission meeting.

Free & Low-Cost Marketing Resources from Texas Tourism Partners

TCA's next live webinar, **Free & Low-Cost Marketing Resources from Texas Tourism Partners**, will be



Lois Rodriguez and Cole Hubbard

offered at 2 PM Central on Wednesday, August 21. Are you doing all you can to attract tourists to your organization's festivals, events, and programs? Join representatives from the **Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism division (Travel Texas)** and the **Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)**'s *Texas Highways* magazine to learn more about State tourism resources. Topics include the *Texas Highways* events calendar, making the most of TxDOT's travel information centers, co-op marketing

opportunities for reduced rates on paid advertising, free community tourism assessments, and statistical analyses of tourism's impact on your community. [Reserve your spot now](#) for this webinar!

Cole Hubbard has served as a Research Coordinator within the Texas Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism division (Travel Texas) since 2015. Cole jumped right into the tourism research industry after receiving his M.S. in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences from Texas A&M University with his studies focused on sustainable tourism and interpretation methods. It is through his current role that Cole provides research-related resources to Texas partners covering a wide array of topics ranging from community development initiatives, impact analyses, hotel and visitation metrics, and advertising and marketing effectiveness. On his agency's behalf, he also oversees a memorandum of understanding with four additional Texas State agencies designed to further stimulate in-state travel within Texas. Cole also oversees the Community Tourism Assessment program afforded through the Office of the Governor, which aims to assist communities with developing their tourism promotion strategies and marketing efforts.

Lois Rodriguez is TxDOT's Travel Information Division's Strategic Partnership Manager, serving as a liaison between Texas's tourism industry and the Division's programs such as *Texas Highways* magazine, *Don't Mess with Texas* and the Texas Travel Information Centers. Lois previously served as Web Editor and Social Media Manager for *Texas Highways*, as well as editor of assorted division publications such as the Texas State Travel Guide. Before TxDOT, Lois had an extensive career in newspapers and city-based online entertainment guides for Microsoft and Citysearch. Additionally, she is a Commissioner for the City of Austin's Tourism Commission, helps communities improve their tourism economy as part of the Office of the Governor's Tourism Assessment Team, and is an award-winning baker who has been guest chef at the Fredericksburg Food and Wine Fest for the past twelve years.

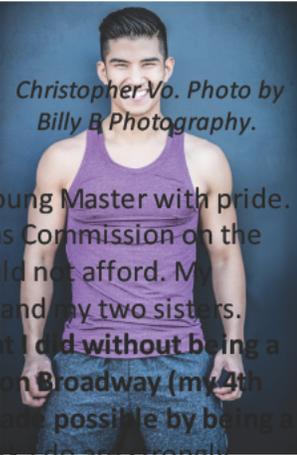
If you missed the **Building a New Building** webinar we offered with **Becky Duval Reese** on June 19, good news! All of our professional development webinars are recorded and available [online](#) for free.

Catching Up with Young Master Alum Christopher Vo (Dance 2002)

Since its inception in 2002, the Young Masters grant program has provided 343 grants to Texas high school students for their advanced studies in the arts. With this year's set of \$5,000 grants to each of the fifteen current Young Masters, TCA and our partners at the [Texas Cultural Trust](#) have surpassed \$1 million in total Young Masters grants! We're using this month's newsletter to share an update from one of our earliest Young Masters.

Christopher Vo was named a Young Master while already enrolled in the Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing & Visual

Arts in Dallas. He used his Young Masters grant money to attend the Oasis Mind-Body Conditioning Center in Dallas. The following year, Young Masters dollars helped him attend the Juilliard Summer Dance Intensive and American Dance Festival in Durham, NC.



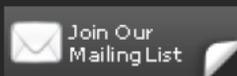
Christopher Vo. Photo by Billy B Photography.

Chris writes, "I'm currently in my 30s, and I still wear my title of Texas Young Master with pride. The grants awarded to me through the Texas Cultural Trust and the Texas Commission on the Arts allowed me to attend summer dance programs that I otherwise could not afford. My mother fled Vietnam during the war and single-handedly raised myself and my two sisters. **There was NO WAY I could have received the education and training that I did without being a Texas Young Master. Everyday I walk into the theater at The Cher Show on Broadway (my 4th Broadway Show) and I am reminded of the educational opportunities made possible by being a TCT and TCA [Young Master].** The technique and heartbeat of all the work I do are strongly rooted in the things I learned in my formative years as a high school student. Huge thanks to the Young Masters program for being a catalyst for success in my career."

Chris received a BFA in Dance from the Juilliard School in New York in 2008. Chris was recognized as a Presidential Scholar in the Arts in 2004 and was a Princess Grace Award winner in 2007. He was named one of Dance Magazine's "25 to Watch in 2009."

Chris is currently performing in *The Cher Show* on Broadway at the Neil Simon Theatre. He has also recently performed in *Chess* at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, *Miss Saigon* on Broadway at the Broadway Theater, and *The King and I* on Broadway at the Lincoln Center Theater. In October 2014, Chris made his Broadway debut in *On the Town*. Earlier in 2014, he made his Off-Broadway debut in David Henry Hwang's *Kung Fu*, and was in the premiere of Christopher Gattelli's *In Your Arms* (NY Stage and Film). Chris was a featured dancer during Season 2 of the NBC show *Smash*. From 2011-2012, he was a principal dancer in the national tour of Twyla Tharp's *Come Fly Away*. In addition to his work in theater and television, Chris's career also spans across the concert dance world. He toured with Aszure Barton and Artists (2011) and the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company (2008-2011). Some of his favorite choreographers to have worked with are Robert Battle, Eliot Feld, Jessica Lang, Doug Varone, and Bruce Wood. Christopher Vo lives in New York City and is committed to enriching the world through dance.

TCA is proud to have been a part of Christopher's development as an artist, along with our partners at the Texas Cultural Trust. Inspired by Christopher and the other Young Masters? **Know a talented young Texas artist who's a good candidate for the next class of Young Masters? Tell them to get ready to apply--we'll start taking applications next month!**



Texas Commission on the Arts

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<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 the Texas Women for the Arts.

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