

NEWS FROM TCA: MAY 2020



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The Fusebox Festival adapted to social distancing and held a virtual festival in late April. These are some of the people who helped make it happen.

A COVID-19 Update from TCA

First, we want to extend our thanks and admiration to the many artists and arts groups who have rapidly used technology and new ways of reaching out to entertain, charm, comfort, and connect us from afar. The photo above is from the closing session of the virtual [Fusebox Festival](#), which was held online April 24-26. The virtual festival offered performances, workshops, artist's talks, discussions, cooking demonstrations, video art, documentaries, dance parties, and more. Fusebox Executive & Artistic Director Ron Berry was the first to say an online "festival" was not the same as artists and audiences gathering together in the same room, but that the online format allowed for a different type of artistic exploration to be exhibited, and still provided connection and exchange in various forms. Artists and audiences participated from their homes in Austin, Houston, New York City, Norway, Australia, Canada, Japan, and many other places. This is just one of hundreds of examples of how the arts field has taken to the internet to help people feel more connected, and has continued to pay artists for their work, even as the nature of that work is changing considerably.

TCA is striving to provide continuity of service to help sustain our field. We are continuing to accept applications for upcoming deadlines. Thanks to the willingness of our peer evaluators, we conducted panel reviews of the applications to the 2020-2022 Texas Touring Roster virtually; applicants will receive their panel scores and comments via email before the end of May. TCA is

offering fiscal year 2020 grant recipients as much flexibility as possible to help them address changes in their work and programming due to COVID-19. We have put our professional development webinars on hiatus for the immediate future, but [the recordings](#) of past webinars are online in the meantime. For now, TCA staff members are still mostly working from home so if you need anything, please reach us via [email](#).

TCA will receive \$668,500 in CARES Act relief funds from the NEA to distribute to our very large Texas arts field. In order to efficiently and quickly distribute these dollars, TCA is splitting the money among current Arts Create (operational support), Arts Respond Project, and Cultural District Project recipients via amendments to their current grants (one amendment per organization). This pool is already very large; based on just those grant recipients, TCA expects to split the \$668,500 in NEA money among about 500 Texas arts organizations. Eligible recipients were contacted about this on April 14 and asked to return a brief form by May 1.

If you are looking for more resources for yourself, your business, or your nonprofit, TCA is collecting information about COVID-19 funding opportunities and resources [on this webpage](#).

Want to help out the arts field during this time of closures and cancellations? Here are some things you can do from your living room:

- Donate back unused tickets rather than asking for a refund
- Make a direct donation to nonprofits
- See if performing artists/bands have a Patreon page or a virtual tip jar on their website
- Pre-order authors' books or other offerings from artists
- Take an online class offered by an artist
- Book (and pay a deposit now) an artist to do work for you later
- Get ahead on your birthday/holiday shopping now with unique purchases from artists' websites.

We Need Your Feedback: Complete TCA's Customer Service Survey by May 10



The Texas Commission on the Arts is assessing the quality of its customer service. We ask you to please take a few minutes to complete our online survey. We plan to use the information gathered through this survey to refine our services and help the Legislature understand the scope and quality of our work. Through this process, we hope to better serve you and the arts industry in Texas!

Your participation and feedback on this survey is of tremendous importance. Please complete the online survey no later than May 10, 2020. To get to the online survey, use [this link](#). Thank you for sharing your time and viewpoint with us on this survey.

TCA Grant & Program Updates

Upcoming TCA Application Deadlines

TCA has a few upcoming application deadlines. As always, the TCA staff is happy to discuss your 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.

Designation Program: Cultural District Designation

This program designates special zones in Texas cities and communities that harness the power of cultural resources to stimulate economic development and community revitalization.

Application deadline: letter of intent to apply due January 30; application due June 15

Application form: on [Cultural Districts Program page](#)

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

Grant Program: Cultural District Projects

This program is designed for projects that focus on significant cultural tourism projects happening in a designated cultural district, by established arts organizations that are based in the cultural district and authorized to apply by their cultural district's managing entity.

Activity dates must be: between September 1, 2020 and August 31, 2021

Application deadline: midnight on June 15, 2020

Application form: [online](#)

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

Get to Know the 2020 Young Masters

Last month, TCA and the [Texas Cultural Trust](#) (TCT) announced the 2020 class of [Young Masters](#). In lieu of an in-person celebration, TCT produced a [publication](#) and videos introducing the Young Masters. We held an orientation online that allowed the class to meet each other and to hear from Tobi Berman, who warmly welcomed the class and talked about his experiences as a 2018 Young Master. The class also got legal tips for the start of their professional careers from Austin attorney Alyce Zawacki. We're happy to extend the celebration of these talented young artists by telling you a little more about them!



Jordan Lee Apodaca (Dance) is a junior at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas. He studies dance under Eric Coudron and Camille Billelo Gross at Prodigy Dance and Performing Arts Centre in Frisco. He plans to use his Young Masters award to study at the Juilliard School in New York City this summer.

Ava Arbuckle (Dance-Ballet) is a 9th grader at iUniversity Prep. She is a founding member of Elite Classical Coaching, where she currently trains in Frisco. She has received the Best Young Talent and Artistry Award presented by the Rudolf Nureyev Foundation. She is a two-time Youth America Grand Prix Award winner and won the Silver Medal at the YAGP 2019 Finals, performing at the Koch Theater in New York City. Ava plans to use her Young Masters award to continue her pre-professional ballet training at the John Cranko Schule in Stuttgart, Germany.

Hannah Bambach (Literary Arts) is an 11th grade student at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas. She has been writing for as long as she can remember, and is getting her play "Stalling" produced in late April. Hannah plans to use her Young Masters award to study writing at the Interlochen Center for the Arts summer program.

Haley Beck (Dance) is a 10th grade student at Allen High School. She currently studies with Christy Wolverton-Ryzman at Dance Industry Performing Arts Center in Plano. In the next two years, she plans to use her Young Masters award to study at the Juilliard School and the Nederlands Dans Theater.

Christian Burse (Dance) is a 10th grade student at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas. She also trains at Dance Industry Performing Arts Center. Christian has been recognized at numerous local, regional, and national dance competitions. She plans to use her Young Masters award to study at the Juilliard School this summer in New York City.

Claire Druffner (Music-Cello), is an 11th grade student at Coram Deo Academy. She has won numerous prizes in competitions and has soloed with the Plano Symphony Orchestra, the Meadows Symphony Orchestra, and the Houston Civic Symphony. Most recently, she was invited to play on *From the Top* (show #381) in Key West, Florida, with show co-hosts Elena Urioste and Peter Dugan. Claire has attended many summer festivals including the Greenwood Music Camp, the Heifetz International Music Institute and the Meadowmount School of Music where she studied with Hans Jorgen Jensen. She currently studies with Norman Fischer at Rice University. She hopes to further her love of music as a tool for empathy and understanding. Claire will use her Young Masters award to study at the Meadowmount School of Music this summer.

Vincent Garcia-Hettinger (Music-Cello), age 14, attends Brandeis High School and is a student of Ken Freudigman. For the past two years, Vincent has been selected as a Junior Division Semi-Finalist for the Sphinx Competition. Vincent made his solo debut with the San Antonio Symphony in May 2019, and won the 2018 Youth Orchestras of San Antonio Concerto Competition and the 2018 Interlochen Arts Camp Concerto Competition. He is a recipient of the Sphinx Organization's MPower Artist Grant. Vincent has performed in master classes for Johannes Moser and Andrei Ionita. He will use his Young Masters award to study at an international music festival this summer.

Colby Golightly (Visual Arts) is an 11th grade visual arts student studying under Thai Nguyen and Cassidy Cope at Richland High School in Fort Worth. Colby has won many top awards from district, regional, state, and national art competitions. Colby plans to use the Young Masters grant to study at programs offered by the University of California, Los Angeles, and the Paris College of Art.

Kali Kleiman (Dance-Ballet) is 16, and a student at iUniversity Prep through the Grapevine-Colleyville ISD. She is a first-year student at the School of American Ballet, the official school of the New York City Ballet. Kali was a 2019 National YoungArts Winner, and has received many awards from prestigious international ballet competitions. Kali received training locally at The Dallas Conservatory with Jacqueline Porter and Olga Pavlova, with Avant Chamber Ballet, and Mejia Ballet International, as well as nationally with the School of American Ballet, Houston Ballet Academy, the American Ballet Theatre Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School, the Rock School for Dance Education in Philadelphia, and Ellison Ballet. She is a member of Ballet in the City, and models for Dancewear Solutions and Weissman Costumes. Kali is employed by the School of American Ballet as a teacher's assistant and for their community outreach program, and by the New York City Ballet in their Access Programs for children with disabilities. The Young Masters award will support her attendance at the School of American Ballet.

Cayden McCoy (Theater) is a junior at Clear Springs High School in League City. His acting debut was at the age of five in *The Wizard of Oz*. Cayden is currently studying with Chelsea McCurdy at the JET-PAC. He is also mentored by his high school theater teachers, Mark Stonebarger and Rozie Curtis. Highlights from his theatrical resume include receiving a University Interscholastic League One-Act Play All Star Cast Honorable Mention, as well as being cast in a leading role for the high school production at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival last summer. Cayden plans to use

his Young Masters award to study at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy High School Summer Conservatory in Los Angeles, California.

Ellisa "Ellie" Palacios (Musical Theater) is a sophomore at the Harlingen Performing Arts Conservatory. She currently studies voice and theater with Zachary Stutts and Christopher Ikner. Ellie's accomplishments include the Overall Outstanding Soloist Award at Disney's Saratoga Springs Performance Competition, as well as a Leading Actress Henry Award nomination for her role as Jo March in "Little Women." Ellie plans to use her Young Masters award to attend the Musical Theatre Revue summer camp at the Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan.

Isobel Perez (Literary Arts) is a 10th grade student at the Kinder High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA) in Houston. She was recently published in HSPVA's literary journal, *The Eight*. Additionally, she was a recent semi-finalist in Houston's Space City Poetry Slam. She plans to use her Young Masters award to study at Alfred University's Creative Writing High School Institute in New York.

Keshav Srinivasan (Music-Violin) has been studying violin with Daniel Gee Cordova for the past 11 years. He is a sophomore at the Liberal Arts and Science Academy (LASA) in Austin, where he is concertmaster of the honors orchestra. He is a member of the Austin Youth Symphony Orchestra and was selected for the 2020 Texas Music Educators Association's All-State Symphony Orchestra. Keshav plans to use his Young Masters award to further his violin study at multiple violin institutes this summer.

Michelle Wang (Visual Arts) is a junior at Clements High School in Houston. She started oil painting when she was nine years old, and now focuses primarily on portraits and figures. Michelle's art has been displayed in many local galleries and has won awards at regional and national competitions. She plans to use her Young Masters award to study at the Florence Academy of Art Summer Program.

Somesh Yatham (Music Composition) is a 10th grader attending Round Rock High School. After organizing a concert for his first composition at age 14, Somesh has since had his work performed and/or commissioned by the Walsh Middle School Percussion Ensemble, Round Rock High School Rock Drums section, Tetractys New Music, Panoramic Voices, and the Austin Symphony Orchestra. Somesh has also received performance awards for regional and state achievements and is involved in numerous honors societies and clubs. Somesh hopes to work in composition for films, games, and/or any other sort of media. With his Young Masters grant, Somesh hopes to attend the High School Composition Intensive Summer Program at the Berklee College of Music or to receive private lessons from University of Texas Butler School of Music Professor Yevgeniy Sharlat.

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 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, all before they start college. 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 tenth class of Young Masters. Since the program's inception in 2002, the TCT and TCA have named 169 Young Masters, awarding over \$1,000,000 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. The Young Masters were selected by a citizen panel of experts from across the state based on artistic excellence, level of commitment and

Support TCA: Get the Plate that Supports the Arts



TCA's State of the Arts license plate looks great on all kinds of vehicles, shows Texas pride, and supports public arts funding in Texas.

Available at <http://tinyurl.com/TXartsLP>, the plate 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.



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, and the Texas Women for the Arts.