

NEWS FROM TCA: JULY 2020

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Texas
Commission
on the Arts

Investing in a Creative Texas



If your Texas arts organization is doing work in art healing for active service members and veterans, apply for an Arts Respond Project in the health & human services priority area by the July 15 deadline. Virtual work serving Texans is okay! See the grey grant & program updates box below for more details. Pictured: the Doris Miller Memorial, a project of Cultural Arts of Waco. Photo: Professor Gerald Powell.

A COVID-19 Update from TCA

Electronic documents are highly preferred

As TCA prepares for the end of our fiscal year on August 31, we are receiving a number of grant report forms and support materials. We also are receiving grant applications for upcoming deadlines. In all cases, we request that any supporting materials be sent electronically to attach@arts.texas.gov until further notice. Please do not mail them. This includes grant contracts and assurances forms as well as report forms for Performance Support grants.

CARES Act funding distributed

TCA has distributed \$668,500 CARES Act relief funds to 491 Texas arts organizations. TCA received these funds from the NEA to redistribute to the Texas arts field. In order to efficiently and quickly distribute these dollars, TCA split 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).

Resources for Moving Forward Safely and Legally

In June, Governor Abbott moved the state into Phase III of [reopening](#). This included allowing museums and libraries to expand their operations to 50% capacity and allowing performing arts venues to open at 50% audience capacity, with significant provisions for social distancing. As we continue to see in the cases of libraries and museums, we expect that a variety of factors will be considered as performing arts venues determine the feasibility of reopening safely at limited capacity. As such, we anticipate continuing to see a variety of virtual offerings provided by the arts field, and we encourage you to take advantage of-- and to support-- these efforts. Please refer to the guidelines provided by the Governor to determine the maximum actions you can take at this time.

The National Endowment for the Arts has produced a [best practices tip sheet on reopening safely](#), and resources on [making your virtual activities accessible](#) for people with disabilities.

TCA is producing a series of professional development webinars focused on COVID-19 resources for arts organizations. Videos of past webinars are available for viewing. They include [Fundraising During a Pandemic](#) and [Adapting to the Changing Pandemic Landscape](#), which covers SMU DataArts' recent white paper, [Arts and Cultural Organizations: In It for the Long Haul](#). See our separate article about our **July 8 webinar, Creative Borrowing Solutions**.

Data Collection: Making the Case for the Arts

An important resource in collecting and providing data on the significant impact that COVID-19 has had on the arts field is the [set of surveys](#) that Americans for the Arts continues to conduct. The information collected in these surveys helps make a stronger case for increased support of the arts.

TCA Grants & Staying in Touch

TCA is striving to provide continuity of service to help sustain our field. We are continuing to accept applications for upcoming deadlines, although we ask that you provide all materials electronically. 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.

TCA has oriented the artists on the [2020-2022 Texas Touring Roster](#) and is allowing presenters to hire them for live streaming arts activities while social distancing is still in place. If you are hiring them for a planned in-person event, we encourage you and the artist to discuss a contingency plan in case that event cannot be held as anticipated, and to outline that plan in the performance contract. Please let us know if you have questions about the plan you are considering.

TCA staff members are still mostly working from home so if you need anything, please reach us via email.

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.

As the nation continues a renewed reckoning with racial equity, we'll remind you that the suggestions above can be helpful in that effort. Hiring, purchasing from, paying, promoting, and supporting artists and arts organizations of color year-round is a vital way to make an impact.

Texans Named National Heritage Fellows

Congratulations to Laredo's Los Matachines de la Santa Cruz de La Ladrillera, who were recently named one of the [2020 National Heritage Fellows](#) by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Los Matachines de la Santa Cruz are a ritual dance troupe whose origin can be traced back to a festival on the feast day of the Holy Cross during the Colonial period in Real de Catorce, a mining town in Central Mexico. In the late 19th century, several miners and their families relocated to work in the coal mines on the northern banks of the Rio Grande in a small town called Dolores, Texas. When the coal mines closed in the late 1930s, many of the families moved to Laredo and settled near the brick factory that gave the barrio its name, La Ladrillera; they brought with them the fiesta and the group became Los Matachines de la Santa Cruz de la Ladrillera. They have continuously honored the Holy Cross on May 3rd and the Virgen de Guadalupe on December 12th with a blend of Indigenous and European cultural expressions.



Los Matachines de la Santa Cruz de la Ladrillera. (Photo: Norma E. Cantú)

The matachines event involves multiple art forms: dancing, music, foodways, and traditional dress design and embroidery. As part of the celebration, the matachines dance in procession along the barrio streets to the nearby Holy Redeemer Catholic Church and back to the small shrine, where the Holy Cross is housed. Typically, the celebration lasts from three to five days depending on when the feast of the Holy Cross falls. At any one time during the fiesta, up to 50 dancers participate in the strenuous and physically taxing event. They line up in two rows and perform a repertoire of approximately 12 different sones, or dance tunes. Many vow to dance in memory of someone who has passed away or who is ill. For many it is a lifelong commitment.

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The sones have descriptive names: "La Encrucijada," "La Cruz," or "La Malinche y el Viejo." The music includes drum, accordion, and occasionally guitar. At one time, a violin was included. Women are involved in food preparation-- most often brisket or chicken mole, although it varies. They also embroider the red vest and nagüilla-- a skirt made of two flaps with reed cane strung with jingle bells that function as noisemakers during the dance. Dancers carry a sonaja (a rattle) and a stylized bow and arrow usually made by the men.

The group received an apprenticeship grant from Texas Folklife Resources in the 1980s. In addition, they have participated in the Smithsonian American Folklife Festival, the Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio, and in numerous local events and private ceremonies.

The current members of the group are the descendants of the original mining families who founded Los Matachines more than 100 years ago: Ortiz, Liendo, Castillo, Martínez, and others. They continue to teach the younger generations and engage with the general public, explaining the traditions' origins and sharing their story and their faith belief in the Holy Cross.

The National Heritage Fellowships are the nation's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts. Including the 2020 class, the Arts Endowment has awarded 449 National Heritage Fellowships, recognizing artists working in more than 200 distinct art forms. The annual celebration of the new class of National Heritage Fellows will take place virtually this year, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. More information about this event, including the date, will be available at a later time.

Fellowship recipients are nominated by the public, often by members of their own communities, and then judged by a panel of experts in the folk and traditional arts. **The deadline to submit a nomination for the 2021 class of National Heritage Fellows is July 31, 2020.** Visit the National Endowment for the Arts [website](#) for more information and to submit a nomination.

Biographical information on Los Matachines de la Santa Cruz de La Ladrillera was written by Norma E. Cantú, Murchison Professor in the Humanities at Trinity University in San Antonio.

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.

Grant & Program Updates

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.

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 increased funding specifically for art healing grants for active service members and veterans in the health & human services priority area. If your arts organization is doing work in this area, we recommend that you apply in this grant category to garner maximum funding.*****

Activity dates must begin: between September 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021

Application deadline: midnight on July 15, 2020

Application form: [online](#)

Application limit: organizations may submit one application for this deadline. Organizations should not submit more than one application addressing the same priority area per fiscal year.

Resources: [grant guidelines](#), recorded [webinar about grant program](#), recorded [webinar about the online application process](#), [contact TCA staff](#)

Arts Respond Performance Support

This program provides professional artist fees to Texas nonprofits, schools, colleges, and units of government for hiring an artist from TCA's NEW 2020-2022 [Texas Touring Roster](#) to do a performance. These applications are funded based on a percentage of contracted fees.

Activity dates must begin: between September 1, 2020 and December 14, 2020

Application deadline: midnight on August 3, 2020

Application form: [online](#)

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

Decisions on applications for Arts Respond Performance Support, Arts Respond Project Support, Cultural District Project, and Cultural District Designation applications will be made at the **September 3, 2020 Commission meeting**

Building the Movement: America's Youth Celebrate 100 Years of Women's Suffrage

DID YOU KNOW?

TEXAS RATIFIED
THE 19TH AMENDMENT ON
6.28.1919

First Lady Melania Trump is excited to announce Building the Movement: America's Youth Celebrate 100 Years of Women's Suffrage, an exhibit honoring the centennial anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment, which gave American women the right to vote. The exhibit will launch this August and will showcase artwork by young

Americans depicting this historic milestone. To create this exhibit, the First Lady is asking students across the United States and its territories for submissions depicting individuals, objects, and events representing the women's suffrage movement. Their artwork will appear alongside images of women's suffrage parades, marches, and gatherings that took place at or around the White House.

The White House is encouraging submissions from students in grades 3-12, and will select one artwork to be included in the exhibit from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. All applicants will receive a thank you note signed by the First Lady, thanking them for their participation in this special exhibit honoring the women's suffrage movement.

Entries must be received by July 6, 2020 at 5 PM Eastern. Complete entry information is at www.womensvote100.org/buildingthemovement.

Creative Borrowing Solutions: Professional Development Webinar Series

Join us at 2 PM CDT on **Wednesday, July 8** for a timely webinar, **Creative Borrowing Solutions**. The pandemic that is raging across America has had a profound impact on arts organizations in Texas. The urgency of these times calls for different solutions to the financial problems facing the arts. Fully secured borrowing provides arts organizations a way to make it to the other side

of this pandemic and stay in business. Join presenters **Richard Linzer** of Linzer Consulting and **Irene Namkung** of Traditional Arts Services as they explain what fully secured borrowing is, why it is so valuable for arts organizations, and how to obtain it. The presentation will be followed by a question-and-answer session. Registration is available on a first-come, first-served basis. [Register](#) for the webinar now! If you're not able to join the live webinar, a recording will be available afterward on [our Vimeo channel](#).



Irene Namkung

Irene Namkung was born into the turbulent world of Japanese occupied Shanghai in 1943. She lived in Japan and Korea before emigrating to the US in 1949. She has professional experience as a presenter, studio potter, touring musician, and artist manager. Her extensive nonprofit governance experience includes terms on the boards of the Western Arts Alliance, Seattle Folklore Society, Portland Saturday Market, Oregon Potters Association, and Northwest Folklife. In 1974 she co-founded Traditional Arts Services with her partner, John Ullman. They represented a half dozen GRAMMY Award recipients and two dozen National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship recipients, including Bill Monroe, Queen Ida, Mike Seeger, and Elizabeth Cotten. She has worked with the iconic Texas artists Lydia Mendoza, Flaco Jimenez, Mance Lipscomb, and Lightnin' Hopkins.

Richard and Anna Linzer are the founders of Linzer Consulting. They provide consultation for businesses, nonprofit organizations, and government agencies. Richard works with organizations in the areas of financial management, board development, group facilitation, institutional analysis, and strategic planning. Since 1965, **Richard Linzer** has consulted with over 500 businesses, agencies, and nonprofit institutions in the arts, education, health care, social services, the humanities, and environmental fields. Anna Linzer is a poet and writer. Her book of fiction, *Ghost Dancing*, was published by Picador of St. Martin's Press and received an American Book Award. In addition, her poetry and stories have appeared in literary magazines and anthologies, including Kenyon Review, Carolina Quarterly, PARIS, LA, and Blue Dawn, Red Earth.



Richard and Anna Linzer

Catching Up with Young Master Alum Charles Yang (Music 2004)



Charles Yang (Photo: SY)

Since its inception in 2002, the [Young Masters grant program](#) has supported 169 Texas high school students' studies in the arts. This month, we're catching up with Young Master alum Charles Yang.

Charles Yang, recipient of the 2018 Leonard Bernstein Award, has been described by the Boston Globe as one who "plays classical violin with the charisma of a rock star." Charles began his violin studies with his mother in Austin, and used his Young Masters grant to receive solo, quartet, and orchestra training at the Aspen Music Festival in Colorado with Professor Paul Kantor and the Great Wall International Academy of Music in Beijing, China with Professor Kurt Sassmannshaus. Additionally, he performed as first violinist in the Aspen Festival Orchestra, and as a soloist with the Beijing Opera and Ballet Orchestra in the famous Forbidden City Concert Hall. Because of his participation in the Young Masters Program, Charles said in 2005, "I was much better prepared for the 'musical exchange' with international young masters, particularly some of the best young violinists from China; I performed for some of the best known violin pedagogues in master classes, and I had a successful performance with

a symphony in Beijing. As such, I have much more confidence in myself and will try to be one of the best violinists first, and later, a professor of violin." Austin mayor Will Wynn declared June 9, 2005 to be Charles Yang Day when Charles performed for the Austin City Council.

After graduating from West Lake High School in Austin, Charles attended and graduated from the Juilliard School. He has performed as a soloist with orchestras and in recitals in the United States, Europe, Brazil, Russia, China, and Taiwan, and is the recipient of numerous awards and honors. In 2016, he became a member of the genre-defying trio, Time for Three.

Charles's improvisational crossover abilities as a violinist, electric violinist, and vocalist have led him to featured performances with a variety of artists in such festivals as the Aspen Music Festival, the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival, the Crested Butte Music Festival, the Cayman Arts Festival, the YouTube Music Awards, the Moab Music Festival, TED, Caramoor, the EG Conference, Google Zeitgeist, Interlochen, the Ravinia Festival, and onstage at venues such as Carnegie Hall, Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center's Metropolitan Opera House, David H. Koch Theater, the Long Center, Rudolfinum, the Royal Danish Theatre, Le Poisson Rouge, Highline Ballroom, Ars Nova, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, among many others. He has performed in the presence of two former US Presidents as well as the Queen of Denmark and has shared the stage in collaborations with artists including Peter Dugan, CDZA, Steve Miller, Jesse Colin Young, Jake Shimabukuro, Ray Benson, Michael Gordon, Marcelo Gomes, Savion Glover, Twyla Tharp, Misty Copeland, and Jon Batiste. He is featured in Nick Romeo's book, *Driven*, as well as Discovery Channel's *Curiosity*.

In January 2020, he was named a new co-host of the weekly one-hour NPR radio broadcast, *From the Top*. He first appeared on *From the Top* as a 14-year-old and has been featured on "From the Top at Carnegie Hall" on PBS, and numerous other *From the Top* projects since then. Charles writes, "The Texas Young Masters Program encouraged me at an early age to pursue the art that I am making today. I am so grateful to be part of this family." Along with our partners at the [Texas Cultural Trust](#), TCA is proud to call Charles a member of the Young Masters family and to see him excelling in the arts.



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.