

# NEWS FROM TCA: MARCH 2021

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[State of the Arts License Plate](#)

[Art Jobs](#)



*After February's storm, we hope March brings you warmth, music, and smiles. This musician was part of a mariachi band that was part of the featured entertainment at Sherman's annual Hispanic Heritage Festival a few years ago. (Photo: Sherman Cultural District).*

## Texas Legislative Session Update



The 87th Session of the Texas Legislature began on Tuesday, January 12. This session is expected to be outside the norm, as legislators work to budget reduced revenues and to meet with consideration for social distancing needs. Since the Texas Legislature meets biennially, it will make decisions on two years' worth of State budgeting, including TCA's budget for fiscal year 2022 (September 1, 2021-August 31, 2022) and fiscal year 2023 (September 1, 2022-August 31, 2023). The Legislative Session will end on May 31, 2021.

TCA's Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) will be considered as part of House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 1. In the introduced bills, Senate Bill 1 cuts \$2 million per year from TCA's Cultural District Projects budget but House Bill 1 does not. TCA has asked the Senate to restore the Cultural District Project funds and is seeking restoration of a 5% cut to the base budget with the House and Senate. On **February 9**, the Senate Finance Committee heard testimony from TCA executive director Gary Gibbs as well as additional supportive testimony from arts leaders. On **March 1**, the

House Appropriations Committee will review TCA's LAR, hear testimony from Dr. Gibbs and others, and discuss all requested amounts.

The **House Appropriations Committee Chair** is Greg Bonnen (Friendswood) and the Vice Chair is Mary E. González (Clint). The Committee's additional members are: Trent Ashby (Lufkin); Cecil Bell (Magnolia); Giovanni Capriglione (Southlake); Jay Dean (Longview); Alex Dominguez (Brownsville); Gary Gates (Richmond); Justin Holland (Rockwall); Donna Howard (Austin); Ann Johnson (Houston); Jarvis D. Johnson (Houston); Julie Johnson (Carrollton); Ina Minjarez (San Antonio); Geanie W. Morrison (Victoria); John Raney (College Station); Toni Rose (Dallas); Matt Schaefer (Tyler); Carl O. Sherman, Sr. (DeSoto); Lynn Stucky (Denton); Ed Thompson (Pearland); Steve Toth (The Woodlands); Gary VanDeaver (New Boston); Armando Walle (Houston); Terry M. Wilson (Marble Falls); Gene Wu (Houston); and Erin Zwiener (Driftwood).

The **Senate Finance Committee Chair** is Jane Nelson (Flower Mound) and the Vice Chair is Eddie Lucio, Jr. (Brownsville). The Committee's additional members are: Paul Bettencourt (Houston); Dawn Buckingham (Lakeway); Donna Campbell (New Braunfels); Brandon Creighton (Conroe); Kelly Hancock (North Richland Hills); Joan Huffman (Houston); Lois Kolkhorst (Brenham); Robert Nichols (Jacksonville); Charles Perry (Lubbock); Charles Schwertner (Georgetown); Larry Taylor (Friendswood); Royce West (Dallas); and John Whitmire (Houston).

*Photo: Texas Legislature Online*

## Get the Plate that Supports the Arts

Get TCA's *State of the Arts* license plate at <http://tinyurl.com/TXartsplate>. 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 to TCA and into our 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.



## Upcoming TCA Application Deadlines

TCA has some 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 Create

This program provides multi-year operational support to arts organizations with established cash budgets over \$50,000. **Note that due to COVID-19, TCA has streamlined this application process for current Arts Create grantees. Eligible organizations that do not have a current Arts Create grant can submit a full application for consideration. See our [December 2020 newsletter](#) for further details.**

**Support dates must be:** Between September 1, 2021 and August 31, 2022

**Application deadline:** Midnight on March 1 or March 15. **Note:** deadline varies depending on organization classification. Your specific deadline will be shown in your online account with TCA.

**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. TCA has oriented the artists on the 2020-2022 Texas Touring Roster and is allowing presenters to hire them for live streaming interactive 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.  
**Activity dates must start:** Between June 15, 2021 and August 31, 2021  
**Application deadline:** Midnight on May 3, 2021  
**Application form:** [Online](#)  
Resources: [Grant guidelines](#), [contact TCA staff](#)

## Professional Development Webinar-- Building Resiliency: Myths, Pitfalls, and Truths



Join us on **Wednesday, March 3** at 2 PM Central for **Building Resiliency: Myths, Pitfalls, and Truths**. This webinar will help you gain clarity and confidence in improving your own resiliency and develop a plan to effectively improve your response to adversity. What actually creates resiliency? How and why do resilient leaders navigate uncertainty better than less resilient teams? Presenter Meg Poag, CEO of Austin-based organizational development firm Mission Squared, will provide context and research-based principles in resiliency and emotional intelligence, the neuroscience of stress and decision-making, and specific strategies to improve resiliency and emotional intelligence skills. [Register now](#) to secure your spot in the webinar.

**Meg Poag** is a visionary, proven leader in both local and national arenas, passionate about empowering other leaders to drive change, get better results, and solve organizations' most complex problems. Meg integrates her personal success as an executive with her passion and talent for transforming other leaders to achieve a track record of successful executive clients and organizational leaders in nonprofit and for-profit sectors. Meg loves sparking transformation and inspiring other leaders through her work with clients, writing, university teaching, and speaking engagements at national conferences and gatherings of leaders.

If you weren't able to join us for **Timely Strategies for Organizational Survival** on January 27, the recording is available [here](#). In this webinar, **Elaine Grogan Luttrull** provides information for organizations that are facing financial and operational hardships. The webinar offers specific solutions to consider instead of closing the organization completely. Topics covered include how to project income and expenses for the next year based on best- and worst-case scenarios and exploring pros and cons of alternative pathways, including mergers and shared-service agreements.

## Recovery Resources

### Winter Storm Uri

Please [reach out to TCA staff](#) if you or your organization sustained major impact from this storm. Current resources available are collected [here](#). This page will be updated as other pertinent resources are identified.

### COVID-19: New Federal Funding Available

The second federal coronavirus relief package includes \$15 billion in Shuttered Venue Operators (SVO, commonly referred to as Save Our Stages) grant relief for performing venues and museums, extension and expansion of unemployment benefits, and more funding in the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) (which cannot be applied for in combination with the SVO relief). A table summarizing each opportunity is [here](#), and TCA's resource list is [here](#).

### New COVID-19 Surveys

The Mid-America Arts Alliance is conducting a [new survey on COVID-19's impact on US artists](#). The resulting data will provide a snapshot of how the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting artists at this specific moment in time. The information from this survey is confidential and will be used only in aggregate to express the needs of artists. Please fill out the survey by **March 7**.

Americans for the Arts and Artist Relief have released new versions of their COVID-19 Impact on the Arts Surveys. The findings will power collective ongoing advocacy work to ensure the arts are

part of the billions of dollars in relief and recovery funding. We urge all arts and cultural organizations to complete the [new COVID-19 Impact Survey for Organizations](#). This revised survey helps to continue tracking the human and financial impacts of COVID-19 on arts organizations as well as understanding the challenges with recovery and re-opening. All types of arts and cultural organizations should participate.

Americans for the Arts and Artist Relief, with support from the Ford Foundation, have launched a [new COVID-19 Impact Survey for Artists](#). This revised survey enables the partners to gauge what is happening to our creative economy and address what is needed to provide relief and spur recovery. All types of creative workers should participate: practicing artists, culture bearers, educators and teaching artists, creative entrepreneurs, and hobby artists.

## 2021 Texas Poetry Out Loud Winner Named



The 2021 Texas Poetry Out Loud finals were held virtually on February 24, 2021. The [Poetry Out Loud](#) recitation contest is a national project of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. This exciting program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage. High school students memorize poems and perform them in competition. In the Texas state finals, 16 high school students from across Texas competed for a chance to represent the state in the virtual national competition in May for a pool of \$50,000 in scholarships for students and cash awards for schools.

This year's virtual competition recognized each school winner and featured recorded recitations of the top five finalists. The students, each having first won their school competition, were evaluated on qualities such as articulation, evidence of understanding, accuracy and overall performance. The event was hosted by internationally renowned Texas poet Naomi Shihab Nye, who is also the national Young People's Poet Laureate for 2019-2021. The judges for the competition, Aaron Glover, Rodney Gomez, Andrea "Vocab" Sanderson, and Leslie Contreras Schwartz, are accomplished Texas poets and performers.

After two rounds, the field was narrowed to five finalists: Elizabeth Barnes, a Houston 10th grader who won the Writers in the Schools open competition; Gabriel Brock, a student at Goose Creek Memorial High School; Samuel Eluemunoh, who attends St. Mark's School of Texas in Dallas; Sonika Harish, a student at Lewisville's Harmon High School; and Princess Ogiemwonyi, from The Hockaday School in Dallas. Ultimately, Samuel Eluemunoh (pictured) won the 2021 Poetry Out Loud state final. As state champion, he will receive \$200 and will represent Texas at the national level. Additionally, his school will receive \$500 for the purchase of poetry books and materials. The Texas runner up was Elizabeth Barnes. She will receive \$100, while Writers in the Schools will receive \$200 for the purchase of poetry books and materials. We congratulate all our 2021 participants, their teachers, and their families.

## Los Matachines de la Santa Cruz de la Ladrillera to Be Honored in March 4 Ceremony

Celebrate traditional dance troupe Los Matachines de la Santa Cruz de la Ladrillera during "The Culture of America: A Cross-Country Visit with the National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellows." Tune into the virtual event at 7 PM Central on March 4 at [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov)!

Laredo's Los Matachines de la Santa Cruz de La Ladrillera were 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.

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.

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.

*Photo and biographical information on Los Matachines de la Santa Cruz de la Ladrillera are by Norma E. Cantú, Murchison Professor in the Humanities at Trinity University in San Antonio.*

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