



NEWS FROM TCA: FEBRUARY 2023

arts.texas.gov

[State of the Arts License Plate](#)

[Art Jobs](#)



The wait is over! Back in 2017, Hurricane Harvey destroyed the Rockport Center for the Arts' original building. Now, their new building (pictured here) is open for business as an important part of the Rockport Cultural Arts District!
Photo courtesy of Rockport Center for the Arts.

Texas Legislative Session Update

The 88th Session of the Texas Legislature began on Tuesday, **January 10**. State leaders anticipate additional resources of almost \$27 billion more than the current budget. Since the Texas Legislature meets biennially, it will make decisions on two years' worth of State budgeting, including TCA's budget for fiscal year 2024 (September 1, 2023 August 31, 2024) and fiscal year 2025 (September 1, 2024 August 31, 2025). As part of the budget process, TCA filed a Strategic Plan and Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR). The format of the LAR allows TCA to request the amount of its current two year budget as the Base Appropriations Request, and to ask for additional Exceptional Items as additions to the budget for the coming two years.



TCA's Legislative Appropriations Request is available in full [here](#).

Base Appropriations Request: \$23,260,676 over the biennium
Exceptional Items: \$8,300,000 over the biennium (detailed below)

In addition to the Base Appropriations Request, TCA is requesting increased funds (Exceptional Items) of \$3 million over the biennium for arts organization grants, \$5 million over the biennium for cultural districts, and \$300,000 for staff retention over the biennium.

TCA's Legislative Appropriations Request will be considered as part of **House Bill 1**. The Senate Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee will review TCA's LAR and discuss all requested amounts. The Legislative Session will end on May 29, 2023.

Texans for the Arts Foundation will host an Arts Advocacy Summit at the Capitol on February 8, 2023. More information on that event is here:

https://www.texansforthearts.com/texas_arts_advocacy_summit

TCA is providing testimony currently, starting with a February 3 Senate Finance Committee meeting. The **Senate Finance Committee Chair** is Joan Huffman (Houston) and the **Vice Chair** is Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (McAllen). The Committee's additional members are: Paul Bettencourt (Houston); Donna Campbell (New Braunfels); Brandon Creighton (Conroe); Pete Flores (Pleasanton); Bob Hall (Edgewood); Kelly Hancock (North Richland Hills); Bryan Hughes (Mineola); Lois Kolkhorst (Brenham); Robert Nichols (Jacksonville); Angela Paxton (McKinney); Charles Perry (Lubbock); Charles Schwertner (Georgetown); Royce West (Dallas); John Whitmire (Houston), and Judith Zaffirini (Laredo).

Members of the [House Appropriations Committee](#) are expected to be named soon by Speaker Phelan.

Photo: Texas Legislature Online

Order the Classic *State of the Arts* License Plate Before It's Too Late



If you've always meant to order the classic Texas flag look TCA *State of the Arts* license plate, there is a limited time left to get it on your car (Holders of that license plate design can continue to renew their plates in future years and keep it on the road.). Each sale and renewal of that plate

sends \$22 to TCA. **Until February 18**, you can still order the plate [here](#).

In recent months, TCA has been working with the Texas license plate vendor MyPlates to launch a new design for the TCA *State of the Arts* license plate. The new black and silver minimalist design is available for pre order now at

https://www.myplates.com/design/background/passenger/black_silver_state_of_the_arts. MyPlates and the Texas DMV expect to be able to fulfill orders for the plate in February 2023. This plate design is more flexible, so it can go on a passenger car, motorcycle, trailer, or private bus (attention, Texas bands!). As with TCA's long established classic *State of the Arts* license plate design, TCA will receive a portion of the sales of the new design. Note that this plate is part of MyPlates' "Lone Star

Series," but only the *State of the Arts* plate supports TCA.

TCA is working with MyPlates to update promotional materials to feature the new design. We are grateful to the many arts organizations who have promoted TCA's *State of the Arts* license plate over the last 25 years, and we're looking forward to sharing the new materials with you.

Upcoming TCA Application Deadlines

TCA has several 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 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. We encourage you and the artist to discuss a contingency plan in case the activity 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 March 15, 2023 and June 14, 2023

Application deadline: ~~Midnight on February 1, 2023~~ **Extended to 11:59 PM February 3, 2023 due to inclement weather effects**

Application form: [Online](#)

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

Grant Program: Arts Create

This program provides multi year operational support to arts organizations with established cash budgets over \$50,000.

Support dates must be: Between September 1, 2023 and August 31, 2024

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 video about the application process was sent to qualifying organizations on January 24.

Texas Travel Industry Recovery Grant Applications Open

Texas Travel Industry RECOVERY PROGRAM

New pandemic relief funding application window!

Starting February 1, 2023, a new application category is open for the Texas Travel Industry Recovery Grant (TTIR) program through the Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office. The TTIR Program provides one time grants of up to \$20,000 for the recovery of Texas businesses in the tourism, travel, and hospitality industry that were negatively impacted during the pandemic.

The new TTIR category opens applications February 1 for selected NAICS codes,

including the one for Arts, Entertainment & Recreation (NAICS Code 71).

It also reopens the application process for all previous TTIR applicants who may now qualify for funding or for additional funding.

Applicants must submit supporting documents along with their application to demonstrate compliance with grant and eligibility requirements. This application round will remain open until remaining funds are dispersed. For eligibility and grant application details, deadlines, an application instruction video, and the TTIR application portal, visit ttir.gov.texas.gov.

The TTIR Program was established by Senate Bill 8 and signed into law by the Governor following the 87th Legislative Session to administer \$180 million of funds received from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

Texas Poetry Out Loud Competition Finals March 11

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS
AND POETRY FOUNDATION PRESENT



The 2023 Texas Poetry Out Loud finals will be held in person at the Texas Spirit Theater in the Bullock Texas State History Museum on Saturday, March 11 at 1:00 PM Central. The finals will be open to the public and free to attend. This year's finals will bring together the top ten competitors from across the state to determine the state champion and runner up. As well, the program will recognize each school winner for the year. The event will be hosted by internationally renowned Texas poet Naomi Shihab Nye.

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. At the state level, the winner and runner up receive cash awards and their school libraries receive money to help them buy poetry books. Each state champ will compete in the national competition in May in Washington, DC, for a pool of \$50,000 in scholarships for students and cash awards for schools. TCA is proud to be a part of Poetry Out Loud, which helps high school students explore poetry interpretation and find new modes of self expression while refining their public speaking skills. The finals event is graciously hosted by the Bullock Texas State History Museum.

What Juneteenth Means (To Me) 8th-12th Grade Poetry Contest

2021 Texas Poet Laureate Cyrus Cassells is holding a school poetry competition through March 15. In celebration of the new federal Juneteenth holiday, the contest encourages young writers in Texas to explore the events that make this day in Texas and

American history such a stirring and significant one. **The submission period will run from February 1 to March 15, 2023.** To encourage young writers, helpful poems and prompts, a brief holiday history, a downloadable poster, and a podcast are included at <https://whatjuneteenthmeans.com>.

Individual schools will submit 1-3 nominated poems to be considered by the contest's first read screeners, who will then forward them to five distinguished Final Judges.

There will be a public reading and award ceremony at the Neill Cochran House Museum in Austin for the winners and honorable mentions. The judges, screeners, top three winners and seven honorable mentions will all receive honorariums and copies of Pulitzer Prize winner Annette Reed's book *On Juneteenth* and *Juneteenth: The Story Behind the Celebration* by Edward Cotham Jr.

PRIZES AND CEREMONY:

- 1st place: \$500
- 2nd place: \$350
- 3rd place: \$150
- 7 Honorable Mentions: \$100

Each of the 10 winners will also receive a travel stipend to attend the ceremony. The ceremony will take place at the **Neill-Cochran House Museum** in Austin on Saturday, **May 20, 2023** at 10 AM. The Neill Cochran House Museum is located in the heart of Austin, just a few minutes' walk from the UT Austin campus. It stewards one of the city's oldest residences (1856), including Austin's only intact slave quarters. It sponsors regular African American programming.

This program is funded by the Academy of American Poets and the Mellon Foundation.



Apply to Be a TCA Grant Evaluator

Each year, TCA invites roughly 200 Texans to serve as peer reviewers of the grant applications we receive. We are grateful to these members of our arts field who donate their time and knowledge to our panel review process and assess the quality of grant applications. The peer review process is central to the Commission's efforts to maintain an accountable, accessible awards system for the State of Texas.

If you would like insight into the grant evaluation process, we invite you to nominate yourself to serve on a panel. TCA is not able to pay for this work, but it will allow you to gain experience as a grant evaluator, see how other organizations present their programs and challenges, and ensure that TCA grant decisions can be made—we really can't do this without you. Nominations are accepted year round and can be made [here](#).

Panels can be held online or in person in Austin. TCA reimburses for travel and hotel costs for in person meetings. For online panels, TCA assigns reviewers no more than 25 grant applications to help keep the workload reasonable. **Evaluators can also be**

grant applicants—TCA excludes evaluators from reviewing and scoring an application that they submitted or have any other conflict of interest with.

Grantee Spotlight: Bringing Together Community and Legacy

Every fall, TCA staff spend many, many hours reviewing report forms that grantees submit as they close out their grants. These reports share arts organizations' trials and tribulations, challenges and solutions. Many of these stories will resonate with others across our field, so we're sharing some of them through grantee spotlights.



In 2021 2022, **Jazz Education, Inc.**, (JEI), a Houston based training and education organization founded in 1970, set one overarching goal: serving their community with workshops, classes, and performances that were 100% live, safe, and in person. At the time, they were only a year out from the passing of their founder, Mr. Bubbha Thomas, and still dealing with the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic. Nevertheless, it was important to the team at Jazz Education, Inc. that they find a way to bring their in person programming back in full force and carry forward the vision that defined their work.

Jazz Education, Inc. made their intentions clear by kicking off the year at Midtown Park with their Annual Bubbha Thomas Jazz Concert. By holding this annual event outside with both featured artists and JEI's very own Summer Jazz Workshop All Star Band, they were able to bring families and friends together to safely experience and enjoy the music and culture of jazz. Since service to the community is part of JEI's DNA, the concert also raised donations of socks and hundreds of pounds of food to Houston's Emergency Aide Coalition. Buoyed by this success, JEI anticipated bringing back a show for youth that illustrates and demonstrates the evolution of jazz. When a new wave of COVID 19 impacted Houston, JEI had to put those plans on hold.

However, not even a cancellation like this could keep the team at JEI from moving forward. Undeterred, they planned and conducted their four week Summer Jazz Workshop, which brought together more than 20 middle and high school students from Harris County to learn, practice, and perform together. During their time together, these students held public performances at City Centre of Houston, a concert for Houston ISD teachers during a back to school service day, and a culminating "Evening of Jazz" at Trinity Episcopal Church Midtown. Finally, as the perfect capstone to a year devoted to serving and furthering their community and their community's legacies, the group was honored with a request to record music for an upcoming documentary about jazz saxophonist Benny Golson.

TCA is proud to be able to support Jazz Education, Inc. and so many other wonderful organizations across the state who invest in young artists and make the arts accessible to our fellow Texans.

Photo: Jazz Education, Inc.

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