



# NEWS FROM TCA: MARCH 2023

[arts.texas.gov](https://arts.texas.gov)

[State of the Arts License Plate](#)

[Art Jobs](#)



TCA funding supports programs that bring senior citizens together for art instruction, friendship, and the pride of making appealing works like these! Learn more about this program, led by K Space Contemporary in Corpus Christi, in this month's grantee spotlight below.

## Texas Poetry Out Loud Competition Finals March 11

It's almost here! 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.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS  
AND POETRY FOUNDATION PRESENT



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.

## 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: \$8,000,000 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 and \$5 million over the biennium for cultural districts.

TCA's Legislative Appropriations Request will be considered as part of **Article I in House Bill 1**. TCA has presented its budget requests to both the Senate Finance Committee and the House Appropriations Committee. The Legislative Session will end on May 29, 2023.

The **Senate Finance Committee Workgroup on Articles I, IV, V Chair** is Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (McAllen). The Workgroup's additional members are: Donna Campbell (New Braunfels); Pete Flores (Pleasanton); and John Whitmire (Houston).

The **House Appropriations Subcommittee on Articles I, IV, V Chair** is Mary E. González (Clint) and the Vice Chair is David Spiller (Jacksboro). The Committee's additional members are: Steve Allison (San Antonio), Mano DeAyala (Houston), and Jarvis D. Johnson (Houston).

Photo: Texas Legislature Online

**Support Texas Arts with the New *State of the Arts* License Plate**



In recent months, TCA has been working with the Texas license plate vendor MyPlates to launch a new design for the TCA. TCA's new black and silver *State of the Arts* minimalist design license plate is shipping and is available to order at <https://www.myplates.com/go/arts>.

This plate design can go on a passenger car, motorcycle, trailer, or private bus (attention, Texas bands!). TCA will receive a portion of the sales of the plate. Note that this plate is part of MyPlates' "Lone Star Series," but only the *State of the Arts* plate supports TCA. As of March 1, a rebate offer is available for those ordering their plate for multiple years. Make a long term commitment to the arts!

## 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 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.

### 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. 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 occur:** Between June 15, 2023 and August 31, 2023

**Application deadline:** Midnight on May 1, 2023

**Application form:** [Online](#)

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

## Little Joe Hernández Named a 2023 National Heritage Fellow

Temple's Little Joe Hernández was recently named one of the 2023 National Heritage Fellows by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Each fellowship includes a \$25,000





award. Details will be released in the future about an event to honor the 2023 fellows.

In the announcement, the NEA noted that Little Joe Hernández has helped pioneer Tejano music, becoming one of the most prominent figures in the tradition today, with more than 70 albums and five Grammy Awards, with his band, Little Joe y La Familia.

Among Little Joe's other honors is the designation as 2019 Texas State Musician by the Texas State Legislature.

"The 2023 National Heritage Fellows exemplify what it means to live an artful life," said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. "Their rich and diverse art forms connect us to the past, strengthen our communities today, and give hope to future generations in ways that only the arts can. Our nation is strengthened through their meaningful practices, expressions, and preservation of traditional artistry."

The National Heritage Fellowships are the nation's highest honor in the folk and traditional arts. Including the 2023 class, the NEA has awarded 477 National Heritage Fellowships since 1982, recognizing artists working in more than 200 distinct art forms.

Photo: Catalina Cruz

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

A final reminder that 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. 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. TCA is currently assembling panels of evaluators to review Arts Create grant applications.

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: Extending Opportunities for New Art and Artists

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.



2021-22 was a busy year for **K Space Contemporary (KSC)**, an arts organization in

downtown Corpus Christi dedicated to presenting and promoting awareness of contemporary art in South Texas. It marked the return of the Third Coast Biennial National Juried Exhibition (3rd Coast) and the sixth year of ongoing partnerships with community senior centers. These programs are conducted in addition to their primary exhibitions, resulting in constant opportunities for arts lovers of all ages to see, experience, and create new art. With such a busy schedule, it would have been easy to iron out the differences between these activities and figure out a way to roll these opportunities into each other. However, in keeping with their mission of providing a forum for creative exchange and experimentation, K Space Contemporary homed in on bringing out the most of what makes each opportunity unique.

In the case of 3rd Coast, which brings artists together for juried and public exhibitions, this meant embarking on a comprehensive search to identify 50 works out of 554 submitted by 199 artists in 36 states to present their work to the Coastal Bend community. With acclaimed gallerist Mark L. Smith, Ph.D., as their juror, K Space Contemporary opened the door for locals and visitors to discover new artists, and for new connections to be made. One of these new connections came unexpectedly when Christian Stiles, who works at an architectural firm on the same block as K Space Contemporary and who had never set foot in the gallery, entered the pool of applicants and ended up winning Best of Show. Stiles had never entered a juried exhibition before, but since winning and selling two pieces at 3rd Coast, he has continued to build his relationship with KSC by participating in one of their art markets and is planning to participate in one of their upcoming exhibitions.

While 3rd Coast created new opportunities for artists and arts lovers to explore new works, it wasn't the only opportunity KSC offered. This year, as part of their continued partnerships with community senior centers, KSC worked with Corpus Christi based artist Monica Marie Garcia to provide free painting and drawing classes for senior adults of different backgrounds. Many senior adults expressed that the only time they can draw, paint or participate in making art is during KSC's visits to the senior centers, where access to artistic projects is limited because of funding. The seniors specifically enjoyed getting to work with Monica because she is bilingual and, as a result, more of the participants could learn in their first language. Because they were able to speak with Monica and engage her over a longer period of time, many seniors felt empowered and were excited to take their creations home with them to share with their families.

TCA is proud to be able to support K Space Contemporary and the many wonderful organizations across the state who make the arts accessible to our fellow Texans.

Photos: K Space Contemporary

## Welcome, Cristina!

In January, TCA welcomed Cristina Saltos (she/her) to our program staff! Cristina is a nonprofit professional experienced in collaborating with organizations and communities to create meaningful, inclusive artistic experiences that allow people to celebrate themselves while gaining a deeper appreciation of the cultures around them. She holds a Master of Music in historical musicology from the University of Texas at Austin (2020), where she learned the foundations of grant writing and secured two grants for her master's report





and project on access, inclusivity, and community engagement in music history curricula. After graduating, Cristina honed her arts administration and teaching skills as the curriculum developer for Amistad Caribbean Arts Camp in Cleveland, Ohio, where she worked with organizational members and students to create a curriculum now being piloted in Northeast Ohio. During this time, she also worked as a contractor supporting YouTube Music, a project that gave her a deeper understanding of the music industry and its impact on artists. An Austin resident since 2018, Cristina has found exploring and experiencing her city's diverse array of arts nonprofits and cultures her favorite

part of being in Texas. She is delighted to bring her experiences to the Texas Commission on the Arts and serve our state's vibrant artists and cultures.

Photo: Christopher Zebo/The Austin Photo Truck

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