



NEWS FROM TCA: JUNE 2023

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Celebrating the 2023 and 2024 Texas State Artists! Scroll down for more information.

Top row, left to right: Gary Clark, Jr. (photo: Frank Maddocks); ire'ne lara silva; Gaspar Enriquez; James C. Watkins (photo: Bonni Oakes).

Bottom row, left to right: Kelly Clarkson; Amanda Johnston (photo: Cindy Elizabeth); Michael Ray Charles (photo: Aarik Charles); Diana Kersey (photo: Clara Lewis-Valero).

Good News for TCA from the Texas Legislative Session



Texas' 88th Session wrapped up on May 29. We're pleased to say that toward the end of the session, the Conference Committee tasked with reconciling the differences between House Bill 1 and Senate Bill 1 chose the TCA budget proposed in HB 1. This is good news, since HB 1 includes the full exceptional items TCA requested. Since the Texas Legislature meets biennially, it made 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).

TCA's budget as revised by the Conference Committee was approved by each chamber before the session ended. Governor Abbott has through Sunday, June 18 to sign the bill as it stands or to alter it via line item veto.

TCA extends its gratitude to our partners at Texans for the Arts and the Texas Cultural Trust, and to citizens who advocated for full funding of TCA's budget requests.

As well, TCA is thankful to the Texas Representatives and Senators who made this decision, including Conference Committee members Representatives Greg Bonnen (Chair, Friendswood), Mary Gonzalez (Clint), Jacey Jetton (Richmond), Gary VanDeaver (New Boston), and Armando Walle (Houston) and Senators Joan Huffman (Chair, Houston), Brandon Creighton (Conroe), Lois Kolkhorst (Brenham), Robert Nichols (Jacksonville), and Charles Schwertner (Georgetown).

Photo: Texas Legislature Online

Texas Poet Laureates, State Musicians, State Visual Artists Named

TCA congratulates the 2023 and 2024 Texas State Artists, who were appointed by the Texas Legislature on May 29. The 2023 appointees are Texas Poet Laureate **ire'ne lara silva** of Austin, Texas State Musician **Gary Clark, Jr.**, of Austin, Texas State Two Dimensional Artist **Gaspar Enriquez** of San Elizario, and Texas State Three Dimensional Artist **James Watkins** of Lubbock.

The 2024 appointees include Texas Poet Laureate **Amanda Johnston** of Austin, Texas State Musician **Kelly Clarkson** of Fort Worth, Texas State Two Dimensional Artist **Michael Ray Charles** of Houston, and Texas State Three Dimensional Artist **Diana Kersey** of San Antonio.



The positions, created by SB 1043 of the 77th Legislature, are filled for one year terms. The eight appointees for 2023 and 2024 were selected for the exceptional quality of their work and for their outstanding commitment to the arts in Texas. Each Texas State Artist reflects the state's diversity and high quality artistic offerings. Nominees must be native Texans or have resided in the state for at least five years. They must have attained the highest levels of excellence and success in their respective disciplines and earned a statewide, regional or national reputation for their high caliber work. Detailed biographical information on each of the artists is available on the [TCA website](#).

Any Texas citizen was able to nominate an artist in any of the four categories and self nominations were encouraged. TCA reviewed all nominations and developed a list of finalists for submission to the Texas Poet Laureate, State Musician and State Artist

Committee. The committee, composed of members appointed by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, made the final selections. The next call for nominations will take place in the fall of 2024.

Pictured: samples of work by 2023 Texas State Artists Gaspar Enriquez and James C. Watkins. Gaspar Enriquez, De Puro Corazon Series (Luis Jimenez), acrylic on paper, 2016, 48"x36" framed, 41"x29" unframed. In the collection of the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery. James C. Watkins, Bottle Form, Stoneware, wrapped in baling wire, fired with Gold Luster, and fumed with Stannous Chloride, then etched with a glass etching solution, 2021, 26" H. X 22" W. Photo by James C. Watkins.

Beware of SAM-UEI Scams



If your organization has a SAM UEI (System of Award Management Unique Entity Identifier) issued by the federal government, TCA wants to remind you this service is **100% FREE**. Scammers are sending out convincing looking "official" emails offering to help with SAM UEI renewals for a fee. **Renewals are free**, so any mention of a fee should alert you that the email is a scam. TCA recommends marking those emails as junk, blocking those senders, and deleting those emails.

Only organizations that apply directly to a federal agency for funding need to renew their SAM UEI.

Join Us for Grantwriting as Storytelling in a Post-Pandemic Environment

TCA invites you to a free, optional convening titled Grantwriting as Storytelling in a Post Pandemic Environment. Speakers will discuss their experiences in grantwriting and storytelling to illuminate how you can share your organization's story, accomplishments, and unique offerings with a variety of funders.

The virtual meeting will be on Zoom on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, from 2:00-3:30 pm CST. It is open to arts nonprofits and members of the public.



TCA staff will be joined by three nonprofit professionals with a wealth of experience in grantwriting and beyond: **Maria Rocha**, Co Founder and Board of Elders Secretary of the **Indigenous Cultures Institute** (San Marcos); **Samantha Apodaca**, Director of Grants at **Creative Action** (Austin); and **Tim Fried-Fiori**, Executive Director and Development Director at **Express Children's Theatre** (Houston).

TCA selected this topic using feedback from constituents, and we expect that future convenings in this new series will address other needs expressed by members of the Texas arts field.

Registrations are limited, so secure your spot today and experience this conversation in real time! Register [here](#).

If you have questions for TCA or for the speakers, please email [Ron Karahoda](#). This event will also be recorded and available on our website for those unable to attend on June 6. We look forward to learning alongside you!

Photos, from top to bottom: Maria Rocha, Samantha Apodaca, Tim Fried-Fiori.



2023 Texas Poetry Out Loud Winner at National Finals

2023 Texas Poetry Out Loud winner Mariam Botana de Armas competed in the National Poetry Out Loud Competition in Washington, DC, May 9-10, for a pool of \$50,000 in scholarships for students and cash awards for schools. Mariam, a junior at the Northside School of Innovation, Technology, and Entrepreneurship in San Antonio, was named one of the three finalists in her regional semi-finals. As a result, Mariam was one of nine state champs competing in the national finals, reciting “El Olvido” by Judith Ortiz Cofer and “It was not Death, for I stood up” by Emily Dickinson. As a national finalist, Mariam received \$1,000. Her school received \$500 for their library to purchase poetry books and materials.



Ultimately, Indiana’s [Sreepadaarchana Munjuluri](#) took the top prize of \$20,000 and bragging rights as the 2023 Poetry Out Loud national winner. Congratulations to Sreepadaarchana, Mariam, and the other students who represented their states on the national stage.

The Poetry Out Loud recitation contest is a national project of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. High school students memorize poems and perform them in competition, mastering public speaking skills, building self-confidence, and learning about their literary heritage along the way. The Texas Commission on the Arts conducts the program at the state level.

Photo: James Kegley

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



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. There is a price break for those ordering their plate for multiple years. Make a long term commitment to the arts!

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 can [schedule a virtual appointment](#) with a staff member. You may also request that a TCA staff member review your application and provide feedback. Ideally, these draft review 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 31; 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 occur: between September 1, 2023 and August 31, 2024

Application deadline: midnight on June 15, 2023

Application form: [online now](#) for eligible organizations

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

Grant Program: Arts Respond Project

Arts Respond Project grants provide 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.

Activity dates must start: between September 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024

Application deadline: midnight on July 17, 2023

Application form: [online now](#) for eligible organizations

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](#), [contact TCA staff](#)

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.

Activity dates must start: Between September 1, 2023 and December 14, 2023

Application deadline: Midnight on August 1, 2023

Application form: [online](#)

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

Texas Touring Roster Artist Rural Tours in June



In our continuing efforts to provide more quality performances and arts opportunities in underserved rural areas of the state, TCA has selected eight Texas Touring Roster artists and groups to provide free performances in rural counties between March 1 and August 31 (TCA pays each artist a flat fee for the performances directly.). Each artist or

group provides six performances in an assigned area, and the performances are hosted by local nonprofits, units of government, or schools. In the summer, these tours often serve youth summer reading programs in libraries. Hosts are reminded that any Texas nonprofit or unit of government (including a school or library) is eligible to apply for a Performance Support grant for up to half of a Texas Touring Roster artist's fee.

Already this year, TCA has received meaningful feedback on earlier tours. This spring, ARCOS, a contemporary dance/performance company, embarked on a tour of the Big Bend region, anchored in Crane County. Located due south of Odessa, Crane County's total 2020 US Census population is 4,675. Kelli Thurman, Library Director at the Crane County Library, shared the following comments on the impact of ARCOS' performance: **"By bringing the performance to our community, [ARCOS] gave some of our children the chance to experience cultural arts, which many have never been a part of. The children were amazed and thrilled to have been able to interact with the performers and to have been a part of the show."** The photo above is from the Crane student workshop, conducted by Mack Lawrence. TCA is proud to be a part of bringing new arts experiences to rural populations. We have a few more coming up this month.



Storyteller [Kim Lehman](#) will be touring in the area west of Lubbock, anchored in Lamb County. Her programming will focus on preschool and elementary aged children. She will be performing at Muleshoe Public Library on June 5 at 9:30 AM & 1 PM and at Lamb County Library in Littlefield on June 6 at 9:30 AM and on June 7 at 2 PM. As part of the tour, Kim will also perform at Hockley County Memorial Library in Levelland on June 7 at 10:30 AM, and at Cochran County Love Memorial Library in Morton on June 8 at 10 AM.

Musician [Kamica King](#) will be touring in northeast Texas, anchored in Fannin County. She will be performing at City of Daingerfield Park on June 23 at 7 PM, and at the Main Street Theatre in Sulphur Springs on June 24 at 3 PM. Kamica will continue her rural tour at Honey Grove Public Library on June 29 at 2:30 PM & 4 PM, at Bonham Public Library on June 30 at 10 AM, and at the Creative Arts Center in Bonham on June 30 at 6 PM.



If you are near any of these venues, we hope you'll enjoy these free performances! Special thanks to the fantastic artists conducting rural tours on behalf of TCA and to their host organizations.

ARCOS Crane County workshop photo: aisha tida; Kim Lehman photo: Mark Wieland; Kamica King photo: Amy Hendricks Photography.

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 Respond Project 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: Hands-on Experience with Technology Deepens Appreciation for the Arts

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.

Fab Lab El Paso is an organization that provides community access to digital fabrication tools and resources for developing STEM based skillsets (STEM is an acronym used to refer to science, technology, engineering, and math). This includes services like mobile labs for bringing projects of all kinds to life, and creating access for students who might not otherwise be able to use important, contemporary technologies. Fab Lab provides creative programs that intersect STEM based technologies with art (referred to as STEAM) to teach students about the roles technology plays in aiding artistic expression, and in preserving and understanding it as well.



In 2022, Fab Lab was returning to safely conducting in person activities at their 2,000 square foot makerspace in downtown El Paso. With this re opening came the opportunity to partner with the El Paso Museum of History and provide creative technology workshops for students. One of the projects involved 3D scanning historical artifacts in the museum's collection, such as a Faberge egg from the 1800's, and a Manchurian lotus shoe from the early 1900's. These hands on workshops enabled students to see how technology is leveraged to assist the study of art through its preservation and analysis.

Fab Lab also worked with youth to explore the technological tools and materials used to make art. Working with artist Jane Terrazas, Fab Lab El Paso curated an e textiles workshop where students could directly weave technology and fabrics together to create new pieces with artistic functionality and expression. By equipping more youth with the means to navigate the ever expanding world of STEAM technologies, programs like Fab Lab's ensure that tools bridging art and technology are accessible to more people.

TCA is proud to be able to support Fab Lab El Paso, and so many wonderful organizations across the state who make the arts accessible to so many of our fellow Texans.

Photo: Fab Lab El Paso

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