



NEWS FROM TCA: OCTOBER 2023

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We say "Boo!" because it's October, but "Yay!" because we're celebrating another new cultural district this month! Pictured: an immersive theater performance of "Sleepy Hollow" held in Granbury in a prior year. Scroll down to read all about it! Photo: Granbury Cultural District.

Applications Open Soon for Texas Touring Roster Inclusion



On **October 16**, TCA will start accepting applications for the 2024-2026 Texas Touring Roster. The application deadline is **January 31, 2024**.

The program is designed to ensure that all Texans have the ability to enjoy work done by outstanding Texas based companies and artists in their own communities. Artists from throughout the state apply to be included on the Texas Touring Roster.

Touring artists offer performances, workshops, master classes, lecture demonstrations, arts education components, and/or residencies. These artists must have a history of touring and must be willing to travel outside of their community for Roster work. They are also required to maintain a reasonable fee range. Evaluators

with expertise in touring arts evaluate applications to this highly competitive program.

TCA has prepared a wealth of **application resources**, all linked in the [program guidelines](#). New video overviews will be added by October 16. We recommend that potential applicants review all these resources. TCA staff will also be offering **live online Q&A sessions**. The first session will be held on **Tuesday, October 17 at 2 PM CDT**. Registration is required, and can be done [here](#). Can't make that one? Our second live online Q&A will be **Wednesday, November 15 at noon CST**—register for that one [here](#).

Applications Due November 1 for 2024 Young Masters

For one more month, the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) and the Texas Cultural Trust are accepting applications for the 2024 class of Young Masters, a **joint initiative that provides exemplary Texas student artists in grades 8-11 with the financial help they need to pursue advanced study in the areas of visual arts, literary arts, music, theater, dance, musical theater, folk arts, and media arts.**



The state's most talented young artists will receive the title of "Young Master" and be awarded grants of **\$5,000 per year** to further their studies in their respective disciplines. Students are eligible to receive the grant for **two years**, but they must submit a report and an update. The students selected for this program will represent the 12th class of Young Masters. To date, the Trust and TCA have given 401 grants to 184 Young Masters, awarding more than \$1.2 million.

Applications, information and guidelines are available online at <http://tinyurl.com/youngmaster>. Applications and required supporting materials must be submitted by **November 1, 2023**. To be considered for the grant, students must be legal U.S. residents living in Texas and participating in a school based program, a summer institute, or a specialized course of study, or receiving private lessons from a qualified professional instructor. They must also maintain passing grades in all academic areas. The Young Masters will be selected by a panel of arts experts from across the state based on artistic excellence, level of commitment, and quality of their proposed plan of study. The 2024 Young Masters recipients will be honored at a celebration in the spring of 2024 in Austin.

A flyer to help promote this opportunity is available [here](#). Scroll down to see how current Young Masters used and benefitted from their grant money this summer.

Get to Know the Granbury Cultural District

At their September meeting, TCA Commissioners approved the designation of the Granbury Cultural District as a new cultural

district. Cultural districts are special zones that harness the power of cultural resources to stimulate economic development and community vitality. These districts can be focal points for generating business, attracting tourists, stimulating cultural development and fostering civic pride.



The Texas Commission on the Arts is the only body able to officially designate cultural districts on behalf of the State. Cultural districts are marketable tourism assets that highlight the distinct identity of a community and encourage in state, out of state, and international visitors. Cultural district development helps a community boost its economy while realizing other cultural and civic benefits. The outcomes of cultural districts extend beyond the arts and benefit all members of a community. Official designation allows cultural districts and qualifying resident arts organizations to be eligible to apply for significant Cultural District Project funding through TCA.

The Granbury Cultural District is centered around Granbury's historic downtown square and is the home of many of Granbury's best amenities, including museums, restaurants, wineries, live theater, live music venues, retail shopping, art galleries, art studios and pop up art spaces, parks, trolley and Segway rides, the public beach with lake access, deluxe and affordable accommodations, Lake Granbury Conference Center, Granbury's Visitor Center, and abundant free public parking. The Cultural District is the hub of virtually all of the festivals and major events in Granbury. Granbury has been voted the Best Historic Small Town in America three separate times by *USA Today* as its Readers' Choice.

The cultural district will be officially designated at the annual [Harvest Moon Festival of the Arts](#) on Saturday, **October 28**. TCA staff will present a proclamation marking the official designation. For complete information on the Cultural Districts Designation Program, please visit http://www.arts.texas.gov/initiatives/cultural_districts/.

National Cyber Security Awareness Month

October is [National Cyber Security Awareness Month](#), which is an annual campaign to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity. The Internet touches almost all aspects of everyone's daily life, whether we realize it or not. This program is designed to encourage people to learn about cybersecurity threats, reflect on their own IT practices, and learn how to stay safe online. TCA hopes you will join us in raising awareness about the importance of cybersecurity at home and work this October. Looking for additional information? The [Stay Safe Online](#) website is filled with tips, fact sheets, and free shareable resources.



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.

Upcoming TCA Application Deadline

TCA has an upcoming application deadline. 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.

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 or other work. These applications are funded based on a percentage of contracted fees.

Activity dates must start: Between December 15, 2023 and March 14, 2024

Application deadline: Midnight on November 1, 2023

Application form: [Online](#)

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

TCA Speaker Series: (Re)building Audiences with your Community

Texas Commission on the Arts invites you to a **free, optional** convening titled **(Re)building Audiences with your Community**. Join us and our speakers to discover how engaging with your community can drive deeper, long term involvement with your organization! Our speakers will discuss their specific strategies for acting in partnership with their communities and the impact on their organizations’ audiences and overall mission.



The virtual meeting will be on Zoom on **Wednesday, October 25, 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 community engagement: **Jennifer Bowman**, Director of Community & Learning at **Houston**

Grand Opera (Houston); **Theresa Coleman Wash**, Founding Artistic Director at the **Bishop Arts Theatre Center** (Dallas); and **Dr. Yvonne M. De La Rosa**, Executive Director at the **Teatro De Artes De Juan Seguin** (Seguin).

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!

Mark your calendars for our last Speaker Series installments of the year, where the speaker can be YOU! TCA will be holding listening sessions on **Wednesday, November 29 at 2:00 pm CST** and **Friday, December 1 at 10:00 am CST**. We'll share more information and links in our November newsletter.



High Schools: Sign Up Now for Poetry Out Loud



TCA is signing up high schools across the state to participate in the Poetry Out Loud program. Interested educators should sign up [here](#) so they can receive materials to help them promote the program during the fall semester. Free resources for conducting the program are online [here](#).

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. Each participating high school will hold its competition to determine its school winner by December 15, 2023. The school winner will go on to compete at the state competition in February 2024.

At the state level, the winner and runner up receive cash awards and their school libraries receive money to help them buy poetry books. The state winner will represent Texas in the national competition, which has a pool of \$50,000 in scholarships for students and cash awards for schools. More information on the state competition is [here](#).

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!

What the 2022-2023 Young Masters Did for Summer Vacation



Since its inception in 2002, the Young Masters grant program has provided 401 grants to Texas high school students for their advanced studies in the arts. As we take applications for the next class of Young Masters, we want to celebrate our current Young Masters and the work they did with their grant money this summer.

Literary arts Young Master **Natalie Hampton** (Houston) attended private lessons with writer, editor, and translator Charlotte Whittle in London, England. Over the span of two weeks, she developed and workshopped a longform writing piece, as well as exploring London's literary history. Natalie started at Stanford University this fall with plans to study creative writing.

Plano's **Tori Han** traveled to Amsterdam, Netherlands to attend the [European School of Ballet](#) as a contemporary trainee. The program lasted from April to July and included lessons on a variety of techniques and repertoire, culminating in a performance. Tori will continue her studies at the European School and plans to audition for professional dance companies across the globe.

Keenan Kiefer, of McKinney, spent five weeks in New York City while attending a summer intensive program at the [School of American Ballet](#). Later this year, he will attend the School's Winter Term program, which will allow him to perform with the New York City Ballet and connect with other professional ballet companies.

Violinist **Lindsey Kim**, from Allen, attended the [Tanglewood Institute](#) in Boston, MA for two weeks. She received chamber music training from faculty members of the Muir String Quartet and Arnes String Quartet. This fall, Lindsey entered the University of Texas at Austin.

Aarushi Lakhi, a Young Master in dance from Pearland, traveled to San Francisco, CA to spend a week honing her skills of storytelling through Bharatanatyam with dancer [Preethi Ramaprasad](#). Aarushi started attending the University of Texas at Austin this fall.

Katy's Young Master pianist **Bryant Li** attended the [Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival](#) at the University of South Florida, a three week program during which he performed at a local senior living center and was featured in the festival's closing concert. He also traveled to Piobbico, Italy to perform at the [Brancaleoni International Music Festival](#). Now in his first year at Yale University, Bryant plans to double major in music and ethics, politics, & economics.

Victoria Martinez, the Young Master in musical theater from McAllen, spent two weeks at the [American Academy of Dramatic Arts](#) in Los Angeles, CA, where she attended the summer intensive Camera Acting for Film and Television. During the program, she gained experience in acting in front of cameras and filmed scenes to

create an acting reel.

Aubri Parker, a Young Master in dance hailing from Frisco, attended the [Duncan Cooper Workshop](#) in Largo, FL. The workshop included one on one training with Mr. Cooper along with daily classes. Aubri plans to audition for the [Prix de Lausanne](#) and for positions with ballet companies.

Austin violinist **Suhaas Patil** attended the [ENCORE Chamber Music Institute](#)'s string quartet intensive in Cleveland, OH under the direction of the Cavani String Quartet. Over the span of three weeks, his quartet performed two full works and engaged in musical outreach at children's hospitals and public schools. This fall, Suhaas started attending the University of Texas at Austin.

Houston visual arts Young Master **Blue Perdue** spent three weeks in Pittsburgh, PA while attending Carnegie Mellon University's [academic art program](#) through their College of Fine Art. The program included classes and workshops on a variety of artistic mediums and culminated in a student exhibition that featured Blue's work.

Zariyah Perry, media arts Young Master from Dallas, attended film lessons with award winning independent film and video producer, director, editor, and educator [Barton Weiss](#). Then, she took an acting class with acting coach [Jemal McNeil](#) and attended a filmmaking "crash course" from the [Atlanta Film Society](#). Zariyah is now attending Southern Methodist University with plans to major in film and media arts with a minor in psychology.

Savannah's **Abigail Victoria Weber** traveled to New York City to attend the Juilliard School's three week [Summer Dance Intensive](#). Abigail will be completing her senior year of high school abroad at the European School of Ballet as a contemporary trainee.

Cellist **Danielle Yoon**, from Frisco, spent three weeks at [ENCORE Chamber Music Institute](#)'s summer academy in Cleveland, OH. She also traveled to the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, MA for the [Morningside Music Bridge](#) program. Over this past school year, Danielle was recognized by the City of Frisco and its Cultural Division and will continue to perform at City events.

Ray Zhang, of Helotes, attended the [Aspen Music Festival and School](#), an eight week program that included private lessons with James Dunham, Professor of Viola at Rice University's Shepherd School of Music, and chamber music instruction from Mike Mermagen, cellist for the Aspen String Trio. This fall, Ray started attending Northwestern University, where he will study with Professor of Viola Helen Callus.

The Texas Commission on the Arts and the Texas Cultural Trust are incredibly proud to be a part of these students' development as young artists. We wish them well as they have completed their final year of being Texas Young Masters. If you know a talented young Texas artist who would be a good candidate for the next class of Young Masters, remind them that applications are currently open! Complete information on the Young Masters program can be found [here](#).



national arts & humanities month

We're still celebrating! October is National Arts & Humanities Month which TCA will mark with two new cultural district designation ceremonies, the launch of our next Texas Touring Roster inclusion applications, and numerous grant payments to organizations across the state.

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