



NEWS FROM TCA: NOVEMBER 2023

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We're celebrating student achievement with our grantee profile this month. Scroll down to read all about it and more! Photo: Thank You Darlin' Foundation.

Applications Open Now for Texas Touring Roster Inclusion



TCA is 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 as well as optional services that may include workshops, master classes, lecture demonstrations, arts education components, residencies, or short performances. These artists must have a history of touring and must be willing to travel outside of their community to do a performance. 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](#). We recommend that potential applicants review all these resources. TCA staff will also be offering **live online Q&A sessions**. The next session will be held on **Wednesday, November 15 at noon Central**. Registration is required, and can be done [here](#). Can't make that one? Our December live online Q&A will be **Friday, December 1 at 3 PM Central**—register for that one [here](#).

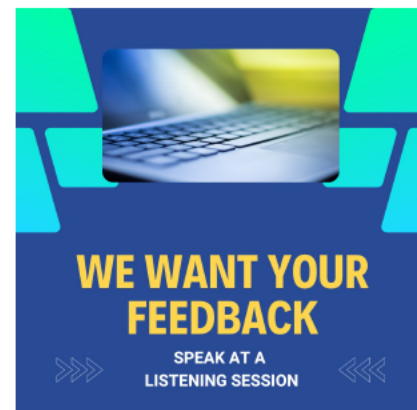
Beware of SAM-UEI Scams

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.



TCA Speaker Series: Listening Sessions

On October 25, TCA held “**(Re)building Audiences with your Community**” as part of our new Speaker Series. The Speaker Series provides professional development opportunities through presentations and conversations from experienced arts professionals across the state. We want to thank **Teresa Coleman Wash, Jennifer Bowman, and Dr. Yvonne M. De La Rosa** for their wonderful discussion of their goals and experiences in engaging deeply with their communities. If you weren't able to join us for the live event, a video is available [here](#).



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.

On that note, for our last Speaker Series installments of the year, TCA will be holding **online listening sessions**. The free listening sessions will be an opportunity for TCA to learn more about you and your recent successes, challenges, and needs. Through your participation, you can help TCA assess the needs of our field, and guide the next year's slate of TCA Speaker Series events. TCA is holding two sessions to accommodate greater interest. Each session will follow the same agenda.

The sessions will be held on **Wednesday, November 29 at 2 PM Central** (register [here](#)) and **Friday, December 1 at 10 AM Central** (register [here](#)).

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 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 be: Between April 1, 2024 and August 31, 2024

Application deadline: Midnight on January 16, 2024

Application form: [Online](#)

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](#)

Designation Program: Cultural District Designation

This program designates special zones in cities and Texas communities that harness the power of cultural resources to stimulate economic development and community vitality.

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](#)

Designation Program: Touring Roster Inclusion

Texas based nonprofits, individuals, universities, and unincorporated/for profit groups providing arts performances apply to be included on the 2024 2026 Texas Touring Roster. See separate article in this newsletter.

Application deadline: January 31, 2024

Application form: On [Submittable](#)

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

High Schools: Sign Up Now for Poetry Out Loud

Time is running out for 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 and conduct the program during the fall semester. Full information on this free national program is 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 compete at the state virtual semi finals competition in January 2024.

At the state finals 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!

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: Poetry Brings Students and Community Together



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.

This month, we are highlighting **Thank You Darlin' Foundation**, an arts education nonprofit in Fort Worth specializing in literacy programs for youth. Their longstanding program, Voice2Youth, brings together students and other Fort Worth community members through poetry. This year, Voice2Youth involved partnerships with seven Title I schools in the Fort Worth Independent School District to serve 235 K 12th grade students through 124 arts education courses. The program provided multiple opportunities for students to experience the arts and hone literacy skills. As a result, they showed **good character and teamwork skills** and **demonstrated new knowledge in their writings and performances about literary conventions**, such as rhyme, repetition, simile, metaphor, and patterns.

As part of this, Thank You Darlin' Foundation presented their 15th Annual Voice2Youth Poetry Slam in April at Texas Christian University. Open to the entire community and involving Kids Who Care, one of Fort Worth's largest theatrical youth arts organizations, the Poetry Slam opened a door for many participants and their families to **visit a university campus for the first time**.

The Poetry Slam also laid out a path for 42 students from six North Texas public schools to advance to Thank You Darlin' Foundation's Annual Voice2Youth Poetry Competition finals. Adjudicated by judges from Toastmasters International, Fort Worth Independent School District educators, and Tarrant County College educators, these students tackled the theme of "Mind over Media" to a rapt audience.

TCA is proud to be able to support Thank You Darlin' Foundation and so many other wonderful organizations across the state who bring the arts to our fellow Texans.

Photo: Thank You Darlin' Foundation

Texas Commission on the Arts
920 Colorado Street
Austin, TX 78701
512-463-5535
800-252-9415
arts.texas.gov



Texas Commission on the Arts 920 Colorado, 5th Floor, Austin, TX 78701

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