



# NEWS FROM TCA: MAY 2024

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We met the talented 2024 class of Young Masters last month at the Capitol, and we can't wait to see what they do next! Scroll down for more details!

## We Need Your Feedback: Complete TCA's Customer Service Survey by May 19

The Texas Commission on the Arts is assessing the quality of its customer service. We ask you to please take a few minutes to complete our online survey. We plan to use the information gathered through this survey to refine our services and help the Legislature understand the scope and quality of our work. Through this process, we hope to better serve you and the arts industry in Texas!

Your participation and feedback on this survey is of tremendous importance. Please complete the online survey no later than **May 19, 2024**. To get to the online survey, use [this link](#). Thank you for sharing your time and viewpoint with us on this survey.

## Young Masters Celebrated on April 16

The Texas Cultural Trust celebrated the 2024 class of Young Masters during an awards ceremony and concert on April 16 at Austin's ZACH Theatre. The evening featured Ray Benson, Trevor Scott, and Texas Young Masters alumni. The evening also celebrated the \$2.5 million gift made by Sarah & Dr. Ernest Butler to this program. Earlier in the day, TCA staff conducted a welcome and orientation for the 2024 class of Young Masters at the Texas Capitol.

## 2024 2024 2024 2024 2024 TEXAS YOUNG MASTERS TEXAS YOUNG MASTERS TEXAS YOUNG MASTERS

Saj Baldwin, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, Houston, *Visual Arts* • Adeline Dunlap, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, Allen, *Dance/Ballet* • Madelynn Mircelle Gonzalez, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Brownsville, *Musical Theater* • Caroline Jacobson, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Spring, *Music/Voice* • Beth Anne McGowan, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Dallas, *Dance* • Aureus Morel, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Cedar Hill, *Music/Composition* • Hudson Pletcher, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Frisco, *Dance* • Eva Rami, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Sugar Land, *Literary Arts* • Adrianna Rodriguez, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Harlingen, *Theater* • Matthew Scott, 11<sup>th</sup> Grade, Lewisville, *Music/Piano* • Valeria Velasco, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, San Antonio, *Musical Theater* • Gracelyn Weber, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Savannah, *Dance* • Gisele Elise Wilson, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Dallas, *Dance/Ballet* • Nevaeha Wilson, 9<sup>th</sup> Grade, Keene, *Music/Voice* • Lerchen Zhong, 10<sup>th</sup> Grade, Austin, *Music/Piano*

The Young Masters program is a joint initiative of the Texas Commission on the Arts and the Texas Cultural Trust (TXCT). The grant program provides exemplary art students 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 & traditional arts, and media arts. This year's promising young students come from 14 cities and together display a variety of artistic talents.

Young Masters are awarded grants of \$5,000 per year to further their studies in their chosen arts disciplines. Students are eligible to receive the grant for two years. This gifted group of 15 students represents the twelfth class of Young Masters. Since the program's inception in 2002, the TXCT and TCA have named 199 Young Masters, awarding over \$1.3 million to aspiring artists from across the state.

### Support Texas Arts with the *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!

### TCA Speaker Series: Creative Spaces and Venue Solutions

Texas Commission on the Arts' next Speaker Series professional development opportunity is coming up in June! This free, optional convening, titled **Creative Spaces and Venue Solutions**, is an opportunity to explore the



challenge and process of finding a new home or performance space for your organization. Our speakers will discuss the ins and outs, including ongoing impacts, of securing their current spaces, so you can have the knowledge you need to take on this important work. The virtual meeting will be on Zoom on **June 4, from 11:00-12:30 PM Central**. It is open to arts nonprofits, artists, and members of the public.



TCA staff will be joined by three arts nonprofit professionals with a wealth of experience to share:



**Ryan Crowder** is an award winning actor and director who co founded Penfold Theatre Company and serves as its Producing Artistic Director. This fall, Penfold will open its seventeenth season in a new facility, the first professional theater venue in Round Rock.

**Madge Darlington** is a Co Founder and Co Producing Artistic Director of Rude Mechs Theatre Collective of Austin. She is also an Assistant Professor of Instruction in the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Texas at Austin and the Interim Director of Shakespeare at Winedale.

**Joanna St. Angelo** has served as Executive Director of the Sammons Center for the Arts, a performing arts incubator in Dallas, for 36 years, and has been the primary architect of the shared use incubator model. She is a sought after consultant in nonprofit management and arts facility development.



We hope you will join us, so mark your calendar and [register](#) today! Please note: registration does not guarantee a spot in this event, as spaces are limited. Be quick to join us on the day of to experience this conversation in real time.

TCA selected this topic using feedback from constituents, and we expect that future meetings in this series will continue addressing needs expressed by members of the Texas arts field.

## Upcoming TCA Application Deadline

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 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.

### 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 17

**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 be:** between September 1, 2024 and August 31, 2025

**Application deadline:** midnight on June 17, 2024

**Application form:** [available 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, 2024 and March 31, 2025

**Application deadline:** midnight on July 15, 2024

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

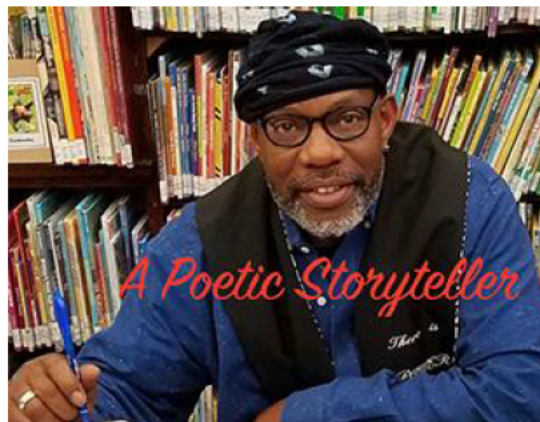
**Application Limit:** organizations may submit one application for this deadline.

Organizations should not submit more than one application addressing the same priority area per fiscal year.

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

## **TCA Rural Tours Bring More Arts to Underserved Audiences**

In our continuing efforts to provide more quality performances and arts opportunities to rural areas of the state, TCA has selected four Texas Touring Roster artists and groups to provide free performances in rural counties between March 1 and May 31. Each artist or group provides six performances in an assigned area, and the performances are hosted by local nonprofits, units of government, or schools. TCA pays each artist a flat fee for the performances directly, eliminating costs to host organizations. 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.



Storyteller, author, and drummer [Oba William King](#) will perform and present workshops in the North Texas Plains this spring during his tour anchored in Palo Pinto County and the City of Mineral Wells. On May 21, Oba will give two performances at Palo Pinto Elementary School in the city of Palo Pinto. Next, he will travel to Mineral Wells on May 22 to give a performance and workshop at Boyce Ditto Public Library. Oba's final rural tour stop will be at Edwards Public Library in Henrietta on May 29, where he will perform and lead a workshop.



If you are in these communities, we hope you will enjoy these free performances and workshops! Special thanks to the fantastic artists conducting rural tours on behalf of TCA and to their host organizations.

Photo: Chicago Association of Back Storytellers

## Register Now to Be a 2024 Blue Star Museum



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS  
and BLUE STAR FAMILIES present  
[arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](https://arts.gov/bluestarmuseums)  
**BLUE STAR MUSEUMS**

The National Endowment for the Arts has opened [registration](#) for the Blue Star Museums Program, in partnership with Blue Star Families. The program encourages museums, zoos, botanical gardens, historic

houses, etc. to offer free admission to active duty military personnel and up to five family members. The program will launch on May 18, 2024 (Armed Forces Day). It will run through Labor Day, September 2, 2024.

Please consider registering for this program; it's a great way to express appreciation for service and sacrifice, and a great way to recruit life time museum goers!

## 2024 Poetry Out Loud National Competition

The 2024 Texas Poetry Out Loud champ, Oluwabori "Anjy" Fadairo, competed in the National Poetry Out Loud Competition in Washington, DC, May 12, for a pool of \$50,000 in scholarships for students and cash awards for schools. Anjy, a junior at the Hockaday School in Dallas, was named one of the three finalists in her regional semi finals. As a result, Anjy was one of nine state champs competing in the national finals, reciting "Caged Bird" by Maya Angelou, "This Is the Honey" by Mahogany L. Browne, and "Let the Light Enter" by Frances Ellen Watkins Harper. As a national finalist, Anjy received \$1,000. Her school received \$500 for their library to purchase poetry books and materials.



Ultimately, Florida's [Niveah Glover](#) took the top prize of \$20,000 and bragging rights as the 2024 Poetry Out Loud national winner. Congratulations to Niveah, Anjy, 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

## 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.

## 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.

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