

Texas

Texas Commission on the Arts
Chuck Winkler, Education Program Administrator

General Information

Organization Mission Statement

The mission on the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) is to develop a receptive climate for the arts through the conservation and advancement of the state's rich and diverse arts and cultural industries.

Arts Education Program Overview

For more than 20 years, the Texas Commission on the Arts has worked in concert with arts organizations, artists, the Texas Education Agency, and arts educators throughout Texas to ensure that arts are central to the education of children in grades preK-12. Funding for arts education projects is available to arts organizations through the Arts Respond project grant category. Both public and private schools can access funding to book presenting artists from among the 104 touring artists and companies that make up the Texas Touring Arts Program. Many of these artists and companies provide curriculum-related experiential activities for students, curriculum development for schools, and teacher training. The Texas Touring Arts program is designed to ensure that all Texans have the ability to experience performances by outstanding Texas based companies and artists in their own communities. TCA utilizes American Masterpiece funding from the National Endowment for the Arts to support the work of 25 artists and companies on the roster.

Although the Texas Education Agency mandates that arts education in music, art, theater and dance be provided to all students, current law does not specify how schools should address this mandate (hours per week of instruction, certified arts teachers, etc.). The result is that the scope of arts education in Texas public schools varies greatly among districts and campuses. For these reasons, almost all nonprofit arts organizations have developed educational programs to assist in bridging the gap in arts instruction. TCA funding to these nonprofit arts organizations supports programs that focus on arts activities that are aligned with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills educational mandates. TCA anticipates a continued rise in arts education grant applications due to arts instruction being reduced or eliminated in some public schools because of budget cuts, lack of staff expertise and constraints around graduation requirements.

TCA-funded arts education projects include direct exposure to the arts through performances, artist visits, hands-on instruction with visiting artists, long-term activities with an arts organization or artists, and teacher training. Arts Respond education projects must be curriculum based learning activities that address one or more arts disciplines—literature, dance, design, media arts, music, theater and visual arts—and are linked to state and national standards. TCA also supports programs that incorporate the arts in other subjects, such as math and science, as a means of engaging students.

After-school arts instruction, Saturday workshops and summer arts education intensives can be funded through Arts Respond in the priority areas of criminal justice and public safety or health and human services. Health and human services projects are those designed to occur in health care or human services settings such as hospitals, clinics, senior activity centers, women's shelters, homeless shelters and other similar locations. Criminal justice and public safety grant dollars are destined for projects that focus on at-risk youth or incarcerated populations with art activities at juvenile detention centers, adult prisons, alternative learning center locations, or public safety settings such as after school programs, summer workshops or Saturday classes.

To showcase visual artwork created by preK-12 students across the state, TCA coordinates quarterly exhibitions that are on view in state office buildings in Austin. Three exhibition spaces are located in the public areas of the Texas Commission on the Arts, Texas Education Agency, and Legislative Budget Board. Annually, two of these exhibitions show artwork from a variety of public and charter school students. Each fall, a selection of work from the Visual Art Scholastic Event organized by the Texas Art Educators Association is exhibited, and each spring the exhibit features the regional winners of the Texas Parent-Teacher Association's Reflections Program.

Operating at full staff for the first time in more than 12 months, TCA has hired a grant administrator with responsibilities for arts education programs and initiatives. Under the direction of the deputy director, TCA looks forward to strong leadership for arts organizations and work with fine arts educators across the state.

To advance opportunities for Texas 8th to 12th grade students seriously studying the arts and for those planning to pursue the arts as a career, TCA provides funds through Young Masters grants. This program awards grants to talented young artists to further their studies in their chosen field. It is not a college scholarship. Applications are accepted every other year, and the most talented and promising young artists receive the title of Young Master and are awarded grants of \$2,500 per year to further their advanced studies in their chosen arts disciplines. Students are eligible to receive the grant for up to three years, but not beyond their senior year, and they must report annually and submit training and study plans to TCA for approval.

TCA continues the Poetry Out Loud (POL) program in Texas. Participation is open to high schools throughout the state. Home-schooled students are accommodated through their local home schooling association or through inclusion at an area school competition. TCA assists schools with resources and funding to bring in poets and theatre artists to help students engage with the poems. TCA is working to build participation in the program, and hopes to mount regional contests with these winners advancing to the state finals. The state finals were held in February at the Harry Ransom Center at the University of Texas in Austin. This location is particularly important as the Center's collections hold manuscripts and archives of several poets featured in the POL anthology. In 2009, the Texas finals winner advanced to the final round of competition at the national POL competition.

TCA has maintained a strong alliance with the Texas Coalition for Quality Arts Education (TCQAE) since its inception in 1995. This organization represents more than three million students enrolled in the fine arts in Texas, their parents, educators, and community leaders involved in and supportive of arts education. The Coalition's mission is to work in concert with and serve as a common voice for the advancement of arts education for all Texas students.

With regular attendance at quarterly meetings and periodic funding for the Coalition, TCA maintains regular contact with representatives of the Texas Art Education Association, Texas Dance Educators Association, Texas Music Teachers Association, Texas

Educational Theatre Association, Regional Educational Service Centers, Texas PTA, and school district fine arts coordinators and teachers from throughout the state. The coalition monitors and gives testimony to the legislature and state Board of Education on arts education issues. TCQAE coordinates Arts Education Day at the capitol, where all forms of student art are showcased.

Grant Programs

Types of Arts Education Grant Programs

- in-school arts education
- out-of-school time arts education
- general operating support for arts education organizations
- arts education program/project support for arts organizations

Groups Eligible for Grant Programs

- pre-K centers
- public schools
- private/non-parochial schools
- private/parochial schools
- charter schools
- home school groups
- regional/local arts agencies
- arts organizations
- arts education alliance or similar state-level organization
- other: The Young Masters program awards grants to talented young artists to further their studies in their chosen field. This grant is not a college scholarship. The most talented young artists receive the title of Young Master and are awarded grants of up to \$2,500 per year to further their studies in their chosen arts disciplines. Students are eligible to receive the grant for up to three years, but not beyond their senior year, and must reapply annually.

Multiyear Grants

Multiyear grants are available for two years.

Total Number of Arts Education Grants Awarded in Most Recent Fiscal Year

231

Total Dollar Value of Arts Education Grants Awarded in Most Recent Fiscal Year

\$668,375

Additional Comments on Arts Education Grant Programs

Twenty-three percent of TCA grants were awarded for arts education activity in fiscal year 2009; this equated to 231 arts education grants out of total of 1,008 total applications.

Teaching Artist Roster Program

Teaching Artist Roster Basics:

- Out-of-state artists may apply.
- A panel is used to select roster artists.

- Applications for roster are reviewed every two years.
- To retain eligibility, artists must reapply every two years.

Additional Comments on Teaching Artist Roster

The Texas Touring Arts Program is designed to ensure that all Texans have the ability to enjoy performances by outstanding Texas-based companies and artists in their own communities. The Texas Commission on the Arts provides grants to help with the costs of bringing in companies and artists from this roster for performances. Performing arts companies and artists from throughout the state apply to be included on the Texas Touring Company and Artist Roster. These artists must have a history of touring and must be willing to travel at least 30 miles to do a performance. They are also required to maintain a reasonable fee range.

Poetry Out Loud

Poetry Out Loud Administration

- in-house with other state arts agency staff

Poetry Out Loud Participation

- number of schools participating in POL statewide: 15
- Home-schooled students participate.
- Schools specifically for students with disabilities participate.
- Schools specifically for at-risk youth participate.

Poetry Out Loud Resources and Activities

- evaluation
- original poetry component

Additional Prizes and Awards

- Participation certificates are given.
- Additional prizes were donated.

Partners, Funders or In-kind Donors That Support the Poetry Out Loud Program

The venue for the state finals, the Harry Ransom Hall in Austin, is donated.

Evaluation & Assessment

Program Evaluation for Grantees

- Program evaluation tools are provided. Program administrators are available via phone for consultation and assistance.
- Grant applications are scored, and evaluations are available to grantees.

Arts Education Staffing & Network Contacts

State Department of Education Arts Curriculum Specialist

Tom Waggoner

Arts Education Program Staff, Job Title, FTE

Chuck Winkler, Program Administrator, 1.0

Staff Biography

From 1991 to 2009, Chuck Winkler was a member of the Houston Grand Opera chorus.
From 2005 to 2009, he was the director of Houston Grand Opera's touring group for young audiences, Opera to Go!