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TFA News & Legislative Re-Cap

TFA Offices have moved to Houston!

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Long 82nd Legislature Adjourns

Sine Die, June 29, 2011

After 140 days of the regular session of the 82nd Legislature and 30 days of a called Special Session, the biennial circus in Austin is finally over. Much has been written about the difficulties of these sessions and there is not much to add, except to report how the arts fared after the final *Sine Die*.

No Meaningful HOT Legislation

Since TFA engaged the outstanding lobbying firm of HillCo Partners to work on our behalf to prevent any further incursion into arts' funding through the Hotel Occupancy Tax in the 79th Legislature (2005); there have been no meaningful changes to those provisions of the tax code. Despite the huge budget gap that needed to be dealt with, the session just completed was no exception.

State Arts Agency Not So Fortunate

Beginning with the Legislative Budget Board's

reversing its decision on how the infusion of cash into the agency from the dissolution of the Cultural Endowment would be treated, to the Governor's State of the State address, to the initial budget bills that reduced TCA's total appropriation by 52%, TFA realized that the agency was in peril.

Fortunately, the TFA Board had voted to expand HillCo's scope of work to include the TCA appropriation, so they, our board, and many arts' advocates went to work, through our Arts Advocacy Day, providing testimony, and making calls and visits to attempt to convey our appreciation for where we stood, given the difficult economic times and to ask for, if possible, restoration of the marketing and cultural tourism funds.

We had two major scares during the session: The first came, appropriately enough, on April Fool's Day when David Simpson, a new R from Longview, proposed an amendment to the House Budget Bill that would have moved 100% of the TCA General Revenue to the Department of Aging and Disability Services. This amendment passed, 67 in favor, 61 against, with 17 representative's voting, *Present, Not Voting*. The result was that the House Budget that ultimately went to the Senate, had no General Revenue for the agency.

The second came on June 9th during the first called Special Session when Rep. Charles Perry, a new R from Lubbock, during House debate on the Appropriations Bill from the conference Committee, proposed an amendment that would once again remove the \$3.5 million per year of General Revenue and move it to the Department of Health and Human Services. Fortunately, Rep. John Zerwas, R-Simonton, moved to table and called for a record vote that went in TCA's favor 87 voting for, 39 voting against and 3, *Present, Not Voting*.

Record Vote Follows

The following record vote will allow you to determine how your representatives voted so that you may either praise and thank or visit and educate as appropriate.

Amendments with Records of Vote
82nd Legislature and First Called Session

April 1, 2011

On April 1, 2011, members of the Texas House of Representatives debated HB1, the House budget bill for FY 2012 2013. The introduced version of HB1 reflected a budget reduction of more than 50% for the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA).

Representative David Simpson put forth an amendment recommending TCA's budget be reduced by an additional \$3.5 million each year of the coming biennium with those funds redirected to the Department of Aging and Disability Services.

The amendment was adopted by a record vote of 67 yeas and 61 nays, with 17 present and not voting.

Representatives voting yea on the amendment:

Aliseda; Anderson, R.; Bohac; Bonnen, Branch; Button; Cain; Callegari; Carter; Chisum; Christian; Creighton; Deshotel; Elkins; Farias; Flynn; Gallego; Garza; Gonzales, L.; Gonzales, V.; Gonzalez; Gooden; Guillen; Hamilton; Hancock; Hochberg; Hughes; Hunter; Jackson; Johnson; Keffer; King, P.; King, T.; Kolkhorst; Landtroop; Laubenberg; Legler; Lozano; Marquez; Martinez, Martinez Fischer; Menendez; Miller, S.; Muñoz; Murphy; Oliveira; Orr; Parker; Paxton; Peña; Perry; Phillips; Pickett; Quintanilla; Raymond; Schwertner; Sheets; Simpson; Smith, T.; Solomons; Strama; Taylor, V.; Torres; Walle; Weber; White; Zedler.

Representatives voting nay on the amendment (in favor of TCA):

Alonzo; Anderson, C.; Aycock; Beck; Berman; Brown; Burkett; Cook; Craddick; Crownover; Darby; Davis, J.; Davis, S.; Davis, Y.; Driver; Dukes; Dutton; Eissler; Fletcher; Frullo; Harless; Harper-Brown; Hartnett; Hopson; Howard, D.; Huberty; King, S.; Kleinschmidt; Kuempel; Larson;

Lavender; Lewis; Lucio; Lyne; Madden; Mallory Caraway; Margo; McClendon; Miller, D.; Morrison; Naishtat; Nash; Otto; Patrick; Pitts; Price; Reynolds; Riddle; Ritter; Rodriguez; Scott; Sheffield; Shelton; Smith, W.; Smithee; Taylor, L.; Truitt; Veasey; Wolley; Workman; Zerwas.

Representatives present but not voting:

Mr. Speaker; Alvarado; Anchia; Burnam; Castro; Eiland; Farrar; Green (C); Giddings; Gutierrez; Hardcastle; Isaac; Miles; Thompson; Turner; Villarreal; Vo.

June 9, 2011

During the First Called Session on June 9, 2011, members of the Texas House of Representatives debated the appropriations bill which included a budget reduction of more than 50% for the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA).

Representative Charles Perry put forth an amendment recommending TCA's budget be reduced by an additional \$3.5 million each year of the coming biennium with those funds redirected to the Department of State Health Services.

Representative Zerwas moved to table the amendment. The motion to table prevailed by a record vote of 87 yeas, 39 nays, and 3 present but not voting.

Representatives voting yea (in favor of TCA):

Allen; Anderson, C.; Berman; Brown; Burkett; Burnam; Button; Callegari; Castro; Chisum; Christian; Coleman; Cook; Craddick; Crownover; Darby; Davis, J.; Davis, S.; Davis, Y.; Deshotel; Driver; Dukes; Dutton; Eiland; Farias; Farrar; Frullo; Gallego; Garza; Giddings; Gonzales, V.; Gonzalez; Gutierrez; Hamilton; Hardcastle; Harper-Brown; Hernandez Luna; Hopson; Howard, D.; Huberty; Isaac; Jackson; Johnson; King, S.; Kleinschmidt; Kolkhorst; Kuempel; Larson; Lavender; Lewis; Lucio; Lyne; Mallory Caraway; Martinez; Martinez Fischer; McClendon; Miles; Miller, D.; Miller, S.; Morrison; Murphy; Naishtat; Nash; Oliveira; Otto; Parker; Patrick; Pitts; Price; Quintanilla; Reynolds; Rodriguez; Schwertner; Scott; Sheffield; Shelton; Smith, T.; Smith, W.; Smithee; Taylor, L.; Thompson; Torres; Turner; Vo; Walle; Workman; Zerwas.

Representatives voting nay:

Aliseda; Anchia; Anderson, R.; Beck; Bonnen, Cain;
Creighton; Elkins; Fletcher; Flynn; Gonzales, L.; Gooden;
Hancock; Hartnett; Hochberg; Howard, C.; Hughes; King, P.;
King, T.; Landtroop; Laubenberg; Legler; Lozano; Marquez;
Menendez; Muñoz; Orr; Paxton; Perry; Raymond; Riddle;
Sheets; Simpson; Strama; Taylor, V.; Truitt; Weber; White;
Zedler.

Representatives present, not voting:

Mr. Speaker; Carter; Ritter (C).

If you would like a complete overview of the 82nd
Session, send an email
to mburketfa@gmail.com and I will forward
the recap from HillCo Partners.

Save the Date - North Texas!!

September 27, 2011

Texans for the Arts and the Irving Arts Center will
host a one-day professional development event
that will concentrate on local advocacy and
conclude with a reception and tour of Genghis
Khan - The Exhibition (www.khanirving.com).
More information to follow.

NEA Announces Texas Grants

Congratulations are in order for the following
Texas cities and towns who were recently awarded
significant support from the NEA:

City of El Paso

El Paso, TX

\$25,000

To support the design of a pedestrian green space that
will connect the Union Plaza Entertainment to the
Cultural Arts District in downtown El Paso. The area
between the districts includes a publicly inaccessible
parking lot, railroad tracks and industrial loading
docks that serve as physical barriers.

University of Houston

Houston, TX

\$100,000

To support a series of public art installations, new media initiatives and cultural planning activities. Project activities will help revitalize the civic pride, community character and historical value of Houston's Third Ward neighborhood.

Ballroom Cultural Arts Foundation (aka Ballroom Marfa)
Marfa, TX
\$250,000

To support a multi-stage improvement plan for Vizcaino County Park. The park comprises several acres of scenic desert on the northeastern edge of Marfa and will serve as a permanent home for the Drive-In, a new outdoor venue for music, film and the performing arts.

Watch for more upcoming news and events!

Yours in the Arts,
Michael Burke
Executive Director

NOW - MORE THAN EVER! We need your support as we plan our strategies for the 2012 and the 83rd Legislature!

Join us today and [become a member](#) of Texans for the Arts. With your support, we can adequately promote saving the arts in the state of Texas.

Spotlight Member of the Month

Abilene Cultural Affairs Council (Abilene, TX) founded more than 30 years ago, the ACAC is among the state's oldest civic Cultural Affairs organizations. The Council has had only one Executive Director, Lynn Barnett and has been responsible for the coordination and development of Abilene's downtown into the cultural mecca of West Texas. Lynn and the ACAC are ardent and active members of TFA, with Lynn currently serving as Past President of the board, and have consistently been members to help educate and advocate.

