



TEXANS FOR THE ARTS

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Texans for the Arts News

TFA Offices have moved to Houston!

New Contact Information :

PO Box 663795

Houston, TX 77266

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TFA Assists Local Communities with Hotel Occupancy Tax Issues

Part of TFA's mission as to protect the use of a portion of the Hotel Occupancy Tax to provide funding to arts and cultural organizations in local communities. TFA has long had a "White Paper" that provides insight into how the law is to be applied in order to protect this funding source. This material is available at www.texansforthearts.com

TFA has recently been called on to provide assistance to organizations, local arts agencies and local arts advocates who are dealing with municipalities' improper interpretation and implementation of the Tax Code.

We have had very positive feedback concerning our assistance with these issues:

"As the City of Corpus Christi has faced budget stresses due to both reductions in income and added expenses, the Texans for the Arts (TFA) organization has been invaluable in keeping at least modest funding from the Hotel and Occupancy Tax source for the Art Museum of South Texas - there was an attempt to zero it out. TFA, through its membership has provided convincing information and data that we have used for our HOT funding appeal. The TFA information helped in two ways - first to counter the argument that the Art Museum and other arts organizations could only use HOT funds for advertising (just not the Legislature's intent), and second to give us valuable data on how other communities are using HOT funds for their arts

organizations. Without the assistance of TFA, we likely would have lost all HOT funding. One more example that hanging together gets much better results than going it alone."

Dr. Robert R. "Bob" Furgason
Member, TFA Board of Directors and
Past Chairman, South Texas Institute for the Arts (operator of the
Art Museum of South Texas)

And, this -

"The Austin Arts Community is grateful to the TFA for the guidance, leadership and information relating to state policy relating to the Hotel Occupancy Tax and the use of these funds to support the arts in our state. The information shared with us was integral in empowering our arts community so they were able to enter into local conversations as well informed advocates. The knowledge that the TFA remains vigilant at the state level is helpful to all arts organizations in our state."

Cookie Ruiz, C.F.R.E
Member, TFA Board of Directors and
Executive Director
Ballet Austin

In addition, we are currently providing the same help and information resources to the Navarro County Arts Council (Corsicana, TX) as their Executive Director Leah Dill Blackard and her staff works to "educate" the civic board that administers the HOT for Navarro County.

If your local arts group has questions or needs a resource for help with HOT issues, Texans for the Arts is both ready and willing to assist.

Next Arts Funding & Leadership Development Workshop Announced

SAVE THE DATE! The next Texans for the Arts Advocacy Academy Workshop has been scheduled for February 22, 2012 and will be held in Austin, Texas. Watch your email for details and registration information.

TCA Needs License Plate Marketing Assistance

The 56% cut in appropriation for the Texas Commission on the Arts by the 82nd Legislature included the total removal of funds used to market the "State of the Arts" license plate which returns \$22 per plate to the agency. You and your organization can help by - not only by buying the plate - but by placing an ad on your website's home page - Use this link to build your ad by pasting in your browser:<http://www2.arts.state.tx.us/lp/>

Yours in the Arts,
Michael Burke
Executive Director

NOW - MORE THAN EVER! We need your support as we plan our strategies for 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 - Laredo Theater Guild International

Laredo Theater Guild International (LTGI) exists as a 501c3 nonprofit community based theater organization presenting a season of quality theatrical productions at Texas A&M International University and Laredo Community College, within their fine performance venues at the Center for the Fine and Performing Arts and at the Guadalupe and Lilia Martinez Foundation Center, respectively. Laredo Theater Guild International productions will include classical and contemporary dramas, comedies, musicals, and single performer shows, selected from among known Broadway, Off-Broadway and Regional Theater works. The primary goal of this endeavor is to provide relevant theatrical entertainment of the highest caliber, while growing and developing the local performer, production, audience, and patron communities. TFA Board Member Dr. Mary Grace Galvan-Carroll also serves on the board of LTGI.



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