



Summary of Cultural District Projects still in the “Idea File” Last Update: May 21, 2025

2024-25 Cultural District Project Proposals

Project Title: Parade Club

Date: 7/6/2024

Name: Bernadette Noll

Brief Description of the Project: Parade Club is a mixed-generation club formed to create a large scale parade puppet 12' or bigger and also to create masks, small floats (walking floats) and other large parade-worthy puppetry to walk in the town's parades. The large scale puppet would be a community project worked on by many different members of the community including students, homeschool families, and senior citizens in the community. We would hold regular maker gatherings to work collectively and on individual pieces.

Benefit to the Community: Smithville loves a parade! In informal polling done, many people said they'd like to see more walking groups. This project is about community, parades, art and interconnection. This project would bring generations together. It would make people feel a part of the greater community. It would foster connection in town. And if we walked in other parades, it would also give Smithville representation in the greater Bastrop area. I estimate that we'd have approx. 25-50 people as part of this project.

Potential/Actual Partners (OPTIONAL): I have discussed this with participants at the open studio at Smithville Community Gardens including senior citizens, students of all ages, homeschool families and local artists. Some want to watch, some want to work, some want to walk with us. It'll take all of us! I'd also like to bring in an experienced puppeteer From Austin to help with the larger puppet project.

Total Project Cost: \$1,850.00

Cultural District Request: \$1,650.00 **Match (no less than 10%):** \$200.00

Matching / Sponsorship Information: I would try to find an individual sponsor or crowd fun and get several donors to donate a small amount to equal the matching grant. The funds from the city would be primarily used to pay artists to participate as guides on this project - especially if I ask professional artists to participate.

Previous City Grants: Yes

Acknowledgement of Reporting Requirements: I understand that I must submit a report to the City of Smithville no later than August 15.

Project Budget

Visiting artist for large puppet	\$500
Local artists guiding the project (myself included)	\$1,200
Materials (mostly reuse materials)	\$150
Total	\$1,850

Project Title: This is Us

Date: 7/22/2024

Name: Bernadette Noll

Brief Description of the Project: This is Us is exactly what the title states: a community art project that is a representation of US, in our small community. Using self-reflective prompts and exploring doll making methods and styles and finding inspiration in community, we will openly invite community members of all ages and backgrounds to make a small figure representing themselves or their family in their own style. Working with Kandra Niagra, the final display downtown of the individuals we are and the community we create.

Benefit to the Community: Benefits will be a tangible display of the individual creations that will show THIS IS US, as a community. The making sessions will be a time for self-reflection and ALSO a time to see ourselves as part of the bigger community. We will examine what we each bring to the table that helps make community, community. Travelers and visitors can see us on display when they see our figures in windows downtown. The display will tell them, THIS IS US. D'town biz will benefit from opening

Potential/Actual Partners (OPTIONAL): Kandra Niagra, The Smithville Community Garden House,

Total Project Cost: \$2,800.00

Cultural District Request: \$2,500.00 **Match (no less than 10%):** \$300.00

Matching / Sponsorship Information: Prizer Arts and Letters - In kind donation of space for shows at 212 Main St. owned; 3 individual downtown businesses who can donate \$100.00 a piece

Previous City Grants: Yes

Acknowledgement of Reporting Requirements: I understand that I must submit a report to the City of Smithville no later than August 15.

Budget for This is Us

Artist fee	x 2 @ \$875.00 each	\$1750.
Food and beverage for maker events and shows		\$450.
Advertising/Printing		\$200.
Materials		\$250.
Miscellaneous expenses		\$150.
Total		\$2800.

2023-24 Cultural District Project Proposals

FY 2023-24 Applicant	Title	Brief Description	Request	Match	Total Project Cost
Drums for Youth	"Artsapes"	Transforming Public Spaces Through Art	\$4,500	\$500	\$5,000
Janus Lee* Wishes to be considered for TCA Grant	"Smithville Sustainable Art Garden"	A permanent art installation at a community gardens property with a vegetable mural painted along a fence line or border wall, incorporating handmade pottery for herbs growing at the base.	\$4,500	\$500	\$,5000 *
Bernadette Noll	"Worries, Wins, and Wishes"	A colorful weaving on a cedar frame, woven by visitors to the loom who will write a worry, a win or a wish on a piece of cloth chosen from the colorful array of fibers offered.	\$3,780	\$420	\$4,200
Lori Huffman	"Evening with Barry Corbin"	Invite Storyteller Barry Corbin to Smithville to enhance tourism.	\$7,000	\$500	\$7,500

Cultural District Project Proposals (prior to 2023)

David Kampa Pavillion at Railroad Park

3/22/22

After the last meeting I spent some time thinking about the portrait project honoring past Smithvillians. To me, it seemed like it had not been fully thought through yet and there might be opportunity for suggestions. I do not

- Hulleah Tsinhnahjinnie, Seminole/Muscogee/Navajo photographer, director of the C. N. Gorman Museum at the University of California at Davis
- A drum and dancers (either from Austin, Livingston, or San Antonio)

POTENTIAL OR ACTUAL PARTNERS

- Great Promise for American Indians, Austin: Jessica Scott
- Smithville Public Library: Judy Bergeron, Library Director
- Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce: April Daniels, Executive Director
- Playhouse Smithville: john daniels jr
- Lost Pines Artisan Alliance: Tina Broussard, President

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

- Four Native writers and storytellers will read their work.
- Tsinhnahjinnie will conduct a 1-hour workshop on photographing Native Americans.

LOCATION OF PROJECT

- Readings will take place at the Playhouse.
- Workshop on Native American photography will be conducted at the Playhouse.
- A mini-powwow will be performed at the Gazebo.

TIME FRAME: June 2020, during PhotoFest

TYPE OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

- Literary: poetry, stories, novels
- Photographic: workshop on Native American photography
- Performing: dance/drum

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO MAKE IT HAPPEN?

- Funding
- Publicity in the Houston, Austin, and San Antonio metropolitan area
- Publicity in social media
- Preparation of flyers/posters to be distributed in both Smithville and Bastrop, possibly even Elgin
- Volunteers: refreshments, setup/breakdown (will recruit my own volunteers to assist with the event).

WHAT ELSE WILL PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR PROJECT TO VISUALIZE YOUR INTENTIONS?

- That Native Americans have a rich heritage embodying poetry, storytelling, dance, and photography
- That there is a Native American presence in Texas
- That the current US Poet Laureate is Native American

PRELIMINARY BUDGET (\$6000)

- Airfare for four (from Tulsa, Albuquerque, Memphis(?), San Francisco): ~\$1800
- Car rental/four: ~\$250
- Lodging for four at the Katy House: \$149/night (\$1200)
- Honoraria: \$2500
- Refreshments: to be donated
- Powwow: \$250

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES/IDEAS

- Smithville Area Chamber of Commerce
- Smithville Public Library
- Bastrop Public Library
- Bastrop Chamber of Commerce
- Other

a guide to programs & services

<https://www2.arts.state.tx.us/tcagrants/TXArtsPlan/ARP.htm>

Arts Respond Project

Eligibility: Arts Organizations, College Arts Institutions, Established Arts Organizations, Minority Arts Organizations, Rural Arts Providers, TCA Cultural District [Effective FY2018, TCA will require VERIFIED budgets for organizations with a budget under \$50,000]

Intent: See individual priority areas. This program provides project assistance grants on a short-term basis and may include administrative costs directly related to the project.

Projects must address ONE of the following priority areas:

- **EDUCATION**
Intent: Projects that use art to promote innovations in K-12 public education.
Designed for projects that impact K-12 public school students during the school day. Projects must be aligned with the TEKS and conducted in conjunction with school officials. Projects may occur in a school setting or off-site (field trip). Before and after-school projects are not eligible.
- **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**
Intent: Projects that use art to improve human health or functioning.
Designed for projects that focus on health-related topics, serve specific populations, or occur in a health care or human service setting (hospital, clinic, senior activity center, women's shelter, homeless shelter, etc).
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
Intent: Projects that use art to diversify local economies, generate revenue, and attract visitors and investment.
Designed for projects that focus on job growth or cultural tourism (festivals, gallery walks, art fairs, etc).
- **PUBLIC SAFETY & CRIMINAL JUSTICE**
Intent: Projects that use art to prevent delinquency and recidivism in youth and adults.
Designed for projects that focus on at-risk youth or incarcerated populations (after school program, juvenile detention center, adult prison, alternative learning center).
- **NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE**
Intent: Projects that use art to understand and/or improve the ecological and agricultural environment.
Designed for projects that occur in rural counties (festivals, fairs, exhibitions, performances) or focus on natural resources (oil, water, green art, ecological issues).

Grant Type: Semi-annual

Application Limit:

FY2017: Organizations may submit up to two applications per deadline. Over the course of TCA's fiscal year, organizations may address up to four of the priority areas through Arts Respond.

FY2018 & Beyond: Organizations may submit one application per deadline. Over the course of TCA's fiscal year, organizations may address two different priority areas through Arts Respond. Organizations should not submit more than one application addressing the same priority area per fiscal year.

Minimum Request: \$1,000

Maximum Request: 50% of project budget

Match Requirement: dollar for dollar (1:1)

Application Deadline: July 15 for projects beginning Sept. 1 through March 31; January 15 for projects beginning April 1 through Aug. 31

Attachments Deadline: Postmarked July 15 for projects beginning Sept. 1 through March 31; January 15 for projects beginning April 1 through Aug. 31

Applicant Eligibility

To be eligible for TCA grants, an organization must:

- be a tax-exempt nonprofit organization as designated by the Internal Revenue Service and/or must be an entity of government
- have their eligibility status established with the TCA prior to the deadline day; know that it can take two weeks or more to get confirmation from the IRS of nonprofit status and 990 financial information which may be required for categorization
- inform TCA if they believe their eligibility status has changed
- be incorporated in Texas
- have fulfilled all its outstanding contractual obligations to the State of Texas (i.e. taxes, etc.)
- comply with regulations pertaining to federal grant recipients including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, the Education Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988.

Ineligible Requests

The Commission will not fund the following:

- **Grants that exceed 25% of the organization's previous year's cash operating revenues**
- Social functions, parties, receptions, fundraisers, or galas
- Operating expenses for home offices
- Operating expenses for state operated facilities including, but not limited to, salary support and facility costs
- Activities for which college or university students receive academic credit
- Projects at colleges and universities that serve mostly students and faculty, with minimal or no community involvement
- Projects by privately owned for-profit corporations
- Financing of political activities
- Retroactive funding
- Debt reduction
- Projects, productions, workshops and/or programs that include obscene material as defined in [Section 43.21, Penal Code of Texas](#).

Note: The Commission will only fund capital improvements, bricks and mortar, and permanent (depreciable) equipment through the Arts Respond Cultural Districts or Commission Initiative/Designated Funding grant programs.

Application Review Criteria

General Consideration:

Does the application reflect the intent of the grant program?

Artistic Quality: 1-50 points

- Artistic significance
- Quality of works of art
- Quality of artists
- Impact on artists
- Quality of services

Capability: 1-25 points

- Administrative capability
- Personnel
- Demonstrated history
- Budget
- Planning, implementation, evaluation

Impact: 1-25 points

- Public service
- Audience or participants
- Education
- Outreach
- Economic impact

TOTAL: 100 points

Arts Respond Performance Support

Eligibility: All Texas nonprofits, schools, colleges, and units of government

Intent: To advance the creative economy of Texas by investing in arts activities.

This program provides professional artist fees to schools, libraries, and nonprofit organizations for hiring an artist from the [TCA Touring Roster](#) to do a performance. These applications are funded based on a percentage of contracted fees. [Please read the FAQ for more information](#)

Grant Type: Quarterly

Application Limit: Multiple applications can be submitted, but only \$12,000 cumulatively will be awarded to an organization per fiscal year (Sept.-Aug.)

Minimum Request: \$75

Maximum Request: \$8,000

Match Requirement: dollar for dollar (1:1)

Application Deadline: Varies.

Quarterly deadline:	For activities occurring:
August 1	September 1-December 14
November 1	December 15-March 14
February 1	March 15-June 14
May 1	June 15-August 31

All applications are approved through the Quarterly Review Process.