



TEXAS CULTURAL TRUSTS KICKS OFF 2018 TEXAS YOUNG MASTERS CAUSEVOX CAMPAIGN

Texas Cultural Trust Aims to Raise \$150,000 With Online Fundraising Campaign

AUSTIN, TX (February 15, 2018) – [Texas Cultural Trust](#), a nonprofit organization whose mission is to be the leading voice for the arts in education, advocacy, and economic impact in Texas, announced the launch of its [CauseVox crowdfunding campaign](#) benefiting the 2018 Texas Young Masters. The campaign kicks off today, Thursday, February 15, 2018 and runs through Monday, April 16, 2018.

[Texas Young Masters](#) is a joint initiative between the Texas Cultural Trust and Texas Commission on the Arts that recognizes excellence in Texas’ brightest 8th through 11th graders who excel in music, theatre, dance, visual arts, folk arts, media arts, and literary arts. Every biennium, Texas Young Masters provides the state’s brightest young artists with grants of \$10,000 over two years to help enhance and build their professional artistic study. To help raise awareness about the Young Masters program and grant funds, the Trust launched an online fundraising campaign with the goal of raising \$50,000 of the \$150,000 needed to fund 15 grants.

“Through this campaign, we hope to increase awareness about the importance of the Arts and Arts education in Texas, not only to a younger demographic, but to the Texas community as a whole,” said Heidi Marquez Smith, executive director of Texas Cultural Trust. “With your generous support, we can reinforce the message that arts are for everybody to enjoy, to participate in, and we can help these young artists realize their full potential.”

Since its inception in 2002, the Trust has awarded grants to 139 Young Masters, totaling \$857,500. These funds provide the boost that allows the rising stars in Texas to become the legends of tomorrow. The 2018 class of Young Masters will be announced in early March 2018. To celebrate the new class, Texas Cultural Trust will host an awards show to highlight each recipient’s drive, talent and creativity on Monday, April 16, 2018 at ZACH Theatre. Ashley Covert, Gerardo Interiano, Maya Smart and Natasa Valocchi are this year’s program chairs.

“The Young Masters grant program was created as a way to recognize and support young people pursuing the dream of becoming prominent Texan artists of the next generation,” said TCA Executive Director Gary Gibbs. “We look forward to supporting the artistic development of fifteen more students

who are already demonstrating outstanding artistic ability, talent and dedication to developing their knowledge in their chosen discipline.”

To contribute to the 2018 Texas Young Masters CauseVox campaign, visit txyoungmasters.causevox.com. For more information on Texas Cultural Trust and the Texas Young Masters program, visit www.txculturaltrust.org. For more information about The Texas Commission on the Arts, visit www.arts.texas.gov.

About the Texas Cultural Trust

The Texas Cultural Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to be the leading voice for the arts in education, advocacy, and economic impact in Texas, spotlighting the artistic excellence of our state. We achieve this mission by promoting the importance of the arts in educating our children and sustaining our vibrant Texas economy, through awareness, outreach, economic research, and the development of arts education curriculum for public school students. Programs of the Texas Cultural Trust include the biennial Texas Medal of Arts Awards, the Texas Young Masters Program, the Arts & Digital Literacy Initiative, Adventures in the ARTS—a children's book, Texas Women for the Arts and Invest in the Arts, as well as support for programs of the Texas Commission on the Arts and other qualifying state agencies. For more information about the Texas Cultural Trust, please visit www.txculturaltrust.org.

About The Texas Commission on the Arts

The mission of the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) is to advance our state economically and culturally by investing in a creative Texas. TCA supports a diverse and innovative arts community in Texas, throughout the nation and internationally by providing resources to enhance economic development, arts education, cultural tourism and artist sustainability initiatives. For more information on TCA and its programs, please visit www.arts.texas.gov.