

Accompaniment

MESQUITE ARTS COUNCIL



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News from Austin and Texans for the Arts

TFA Board members met almost monthly during the 80th Legislative session with strategies encompassing Hotel Occupancy Tax Fund issues and the Texas Commission on the Arts. Many TFA members and board members could be seen navigating the offices in the state capitol. Positive and negative issues affecting all of the arts in the state were scrutinized, discussed via e-mail, conference calls and one-on-one with state senators and representatives. Local elected officials, Representative Latham and Senator Deuell, were accessible. Both provided intelligent discourse on issues that involved the arts. A recent issue of **Texas Monthly** included Senator Deuell as "among the best and most effective 10 senators in the State of Texas." And, as with every legislative session it was frantic and likely to affect each and every citizen in all 254 counties in Texas.



TFA Board Members in Austin facing the camera, Jim Bob McMillan, Linda Lee, Frank Villani, Nancy Loving & Susan Young

SUMMARY of Issues Affecting TCA

- TCA has been renewed for a period of six years as a result of the Sunset process.
- TCA's budget for FY 2008/09 is \$10,621,962
- TCA will have \$3.8 million for grants on 9/1/07
- TCA must raise \$914,096 annually from license plate sales and other sources.
- TCA staff was reduced from 19 to 18 employees.
- General Revenue (GR) was reduced by 72% compared to the previous biennium.

SUMMARY of Issues Affecting Hotel Occupancy Tax

- HB 2438 by Rep. Truitt relates to the allocation of revenue from the municipal Hotel Occupancy Tax for certain transportation systems. This legislation is aimed at smaller municipalities and gives them the ability to accommodate tourists by providing transportation between hotels and businesses as well as tourism attractions.
- SB 462 by Sen. Harris relates to the allocation of revenue from the municipal Hotel Occupancy Tax for the arts for certain municipalities. This legislation authorizes certain municipalities to appropriate funds out of the total Hotel Occupancy Tax revenue for certain arts-related funding. This bill was designed for the Irving Arts Center and will allow the organization to obtain the same amount of funds it has historically received.

To read the full content of each bill please go to www.capitol.state.tx.us. To see additional information please go to www.texansforthearts.com.

The John and Alta Nichols Art Camp for 2007

was the - not to be missed experience in art for 7 to 10 year olds in Mesquite

Art Camp is specially designed for children who enjoy a myriad of activities in the visual arts. The program gives these budding artists the chance to develop creative skills through self-expression and to explore the many ways to solve problems utilizing critical thinking skills



through the creative process. As artist Terri Stone was overheard saying to one camper, “sure your turtle can be sky blue or mountain-top purple...there are no incorrect answers in art.”

Witnessing this yearly phenomenon is one of the greatest pleasures Arts Center staff have - the camper’s sheer bliss taking part in activities, their enlightened moments, their unique problem-solving strategies, their natural desire to learn and participate, their total ease in gaining friendships – these are only a few of the many extraordinary situations that we are honored to observe. Childhood memories seem to last the longest. Ask anyone over 50 who can remember their childhood and inevitably a story or two surfaces about “camp,” or an “art-happening.” These moments are made permanent in sight, sound and sometimes smell.



Great appreciation to the John & Alta Nichols Endowment for funding the camp, and Arts



Council staff member Christina Flores for her gentle organizational abilities. Samantha Jones volunteered her time for the entire week and assisted Terri with the campers needs. Artist/teacher Terri Stone provided ample creative energy and channeled each campers soaring spirit into tangible artistic creations. According to Terri, everyone made great art and shared a delightful week.

Join us next year on May 12, 2008 for registration.

Full House for the Jazz in June

Over 1,500 people heard jazz at the Mesquite Arts Center this last June. The series was a huge success and we had rain too. Great work from Curt Bradshaw who organizes and rehearses all of the big band musicians and makes contact with the two quartets. Kerry Adams' "Clave Con Alma" brought a not-to-be-forgotten latin jazz experience well worth a return engagement. "Great sounds and pure rhythms" were comments heard in the audience. The Brad Leali Quartet "glided through the hour" with inspired solos and a band that was so tight "Dick's hat band would never have fallen off."

When the series ended in late June the Arts Council office received a call from the National Endowment for the Arts with another invitation to apply for their "Challenge America: Reaching Every Community Invitational Initiative Grants. We accepted the challenge and have plans for March 2008...as that piece of furniture in every living room says (the television set)... "stay tuned!"

What Caught My Eye was a 43 Year Old Book

Longtime and highly respected watercolor artist Ed Stephens brought his 1964 edition of Duane Light's WATERCOLOR by the reception for Mr. Light to autograph. Sadly, Mr. Light was not well enough to attend the reception. Standing in though were both of Mr. Light's sons, who as proud siblings shared many family tales with all who would listen — and many did indeed listen. Ed was keen to hear about the subject matter in several of the works. The boys told about where in the United States the paintings were created and how each series came about. Trains, sailboats, roosters and steamboats are all icons from the memory of a talented artist and gentle man. Thank you Mr. Light for sharing your artwork!



And, September • October

Happenings, NOT TO BE MISSED

El Secreto de la Lagartija (The Lizard's Secret), is a bilingual play based on Mexican folktales. It tells the tale of a prince and a magical journey where he encounters giants and talking animals and will be presented at the Mesquite Arts Center by the Latino Arts Association September 21 & 22. These performances are funded by the Edward Jones, Dr. Cary Tanamachi and Ralph and Jeann Wisenbaker Endowments.

A recent gift to the Mesquite Arts Council by Jean Rogers Winchell of San Antonio, Texas is the Dede Duson Music Endowment. Established to fund an extraordinary setting of choral music for unchanged voices, the Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas will be in performance on October 27th in the Concert Hall.



"dynamite wire" by Diane Walker-Gladney

***Diane Walker-
Gladney***

EXHIBIT

***August 31—
September 30***

***Artist reception
is***

***September 15th
4:30-6:30p***

JULY

- 1-8/5 Art-rageous Abstracts 2007 is presented by Texas Area Artists in the Main Gallery.
- 9 Monthly Paint-In begins at 10a. Bring current projects and a brown bag for lunch. Share successes with other artists.
- 9 Mesquite Creative Arts Club monthly meeting begins at 7p. Please call 972-463-6004 for information.
- 10 Mesquite Arts Council Board of Directors meet at 11:30a.

AUGUST

- 5-31 Mesquite Creative Arts Club Exhibit in the Main Gallery
- 5 Texas Area Artists meeting and demonstration will be held in the Rehearsal Hall at 2p.
- 13 Monthly Paint-In begins at 10a. Bring current projects and a brown bag for lunch. Share successes with other artists.
- 17-91 Mesquite Community Theatre presents *The Foreigner* in the Black Box Theater. Tickets range from \$12 - \$8. Call 972/216-8126 for reservations .

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