

**Texas Commission on the Arts and
the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009**

The Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) received \$427,300 from the National Endowment for the Arts out of The Arts & the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) that will be distributed to Texas organizations by TCA through grants that will help preserve jobs in the creative industries. These grant funds will be used exclusively for existing jobs and employee fringe benefits that are in peril. TCA hoped to make one award in each Texas Senate district for a total of 31 grants with funds evenly distributed among the Texas Senate districts.

Out of the 320 eligible organizations, the Commission sent 150 application forms to 30 of the 31 Texas Senate districts, achieving equitable distribution of information regarding this grant opportunity. TCA received and processed 98 applications for the ARRA dollars from 37 Texas cities in 26 Texas Senate districts. Five panels of expert evaluators scored and commented on these applications through an online process. The panels recommended 26 applications for funding.

Twenty-six individual grants of \$16,435 were approved by the Commission at their regular quarterly meeting on September 3, 2009. The period of support for each of these one-time non-matching grants begins September 1, 2009 and ends August 31, 2010.

The 81st Texas Legislature also appropriated TCA \$1 million as a pass-through to the Texas Cultural Trust Council, as part of Article XII, Section 25. TCA will work with the Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop plans for the use of these funds.