



## The Original Denton District

215 E. McKinney St., Denton, TX 76201 ■ (940) 349-7776

June 15, 2023

Gary Gibbs, Ph.D.  
Executive Director  
Texas Commission on the Arts  
Cultural District Grant Program  
PO Box 13406  
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Dr. Gibbs:

This letter is to express the full support of the Original Denton District for the Tejas Storytelling Association and their application for the Arts Respond – Cultural District Project.

The Tejas Storytelling Association is responsible for mounting Denton's annual Texas Storytelling Festival – a signal event on Denton's cultural calendar that brings more than 2000 attendees to the Civic Center and other facilities in the Original Denton District hosting Festival events. This next year, 2024, will represent the 39<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that the festival has been in existence.

Festival organizers are right to point out the breadth and depth of the Festival's significance. It draws visitors from all over Texas, and the Southwest, and even farther afield. Festival storytellers provide deeply engaging performances of story and folklore that are particularly important for their showcasing of indigenous and African American traditions of the American storytelling experience.

We hope that you will be able to provide the assistance that the Tejas Storytelling Association is asking for – \$7,000 to support the programming of the festival – under the Arts Respond – Cultural District Project grant.

As members of the Public Art Committee and as the primary oversight committee of the Original Denton District, we will take an active role in promoting and supporting the Tejas Storytelling Festival. As a signature event in the Original Denton District, the Festival is often used for marketing and tourist attraction purposes.

We are honored to support the TSA's application for this grant and hope that you will be moved, as we continually are, by the excellent work that they do to instill in their audiences a love of story and of the art of narrative performance.

Sincerely,

Monet Franklin,  
Chair, City of Denton Public Art Committee