



National Assemblies of State Arts Agencies 2014  
**Creative Aging Communities of Practice**

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Creative Aging Communities of Practice

- Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do, and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.

The Facts

- The 60+ population in Texas is expected to increase by nearly 50% in the next few decades.
- 14% of the 25 million Texans are over the age of 60.

The Plan

- The Texas Commission on the Arts surveyed 3,434 artists and art organizations in Texas. 30.5% of the surveys were opened. 65 organizations responded with examples of arts programs for creative aging that they offer. These are the questions we asked.

1. *If your organization is serving our aging population, please briefly tell us what arts-based programs you are providing. Please include contact information for the person on staff that runs this program.*
2. *If you are aware of a social service organization for senior citizens in your area that has an arts-based component to their programming, what are those organizations? Have you partnered with them? Please include a contact person at the organization, if possible.*

The Results

- There is a heightened awareness of the need for vibrant creative aging programs.
- There was a 21% increase in Health and Human Services Grants for Creative Aging between FY 2013 and FY 2014.

These are some of the Creative Aging Programs we fund

- **Esperanza Peace and Justice Center** in San Antonio has launched a series of concerts by Las Tesoros del Westside, a quartet of senior citizens who had professional singing careers in the youth. <http://esperanzacenter.org/>
- **Texas Musical Winds** provides 200 concerts in assisted living centers, and individual music lessons for those that are interested. <http://texaswinds.org>
- **The El Paso Museum of Art** and the Alzheimer's Association hosted a free two day workshop on using art to help those with Early Stage Alzheimer's and Dementia. Museum staff, volunteers, members, healthcare professionals, eldercare professionals, and those living with Early Stage Alzheimer's were invited to join in the conversation at the museum. <http://www.elpasoartmuseum.org/>
- **Indian Cultural Heritage Foundation** offers Yogercise classes, a combination of yoga and Indian classical dance and meditation, for seniors in the Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area. (No website)
- **Conjunto Heritage Taller** offers free accordion lessons for seniors, culminating in a public performance. <https://www.facebook.com/conjuntoheritagetaller>
- **The Carver Community Cultural Center** offers weekly senior classes in ceramics, painting and movement for underserved seniors in San Antonio's east side. [www.thecarver.org/](http://www.thecarver.org/)
- **The Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston** presented Critical Wandering, an exhibition and lecture which explores the emotional, physical, and structural evidence of losing the sense of self, for persons with Alzheimer's. <http://www.blafferartmuseum.org/>

Other Programs in Texas

- **Tapestry Dance Company** in Austin has tap dancing lessons for seniors citizens. <http://www.tapestry.org/>
- **The Silver Serenaders of Texas** in Desoto is a chorus for older singers. <http://www.silverserenaders.org>
- **The Renaissance Guild** in San Antonio holds weekly workshops in acting and improvisation, to help seniors tell their stories. <http://www.therenaissancguild.org/>

These are some of our Social Services Partners who offer Arts Programs

- North Richland Hills Service Center [www.nrhtx.com](http://www.nrhtx.com)
- Youth 2 Seniors Austin <http://www.youth2seniors.org/>
- Morningside Ministries of San Antonio [www.mmliving.org](http://www.mmliving.org)
- Austin Jewish Community Center <http://shalomaustin.org/>
- Coalition of Texas With Disabilities <http://www.txdisabilities.org/>
- Las Palmas Community Center in McAllen <http://www.mcallen.net>
- Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services <http://www.dads.state.tx.us/>