

NEWS RELEASE
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Grant Awarded to 2016 Blues Festival



LONGVIEW, TEXAS, October 8, 2015 – Officials of the T-Bone Walker Blues Fest announced that the non-profit organization has been awarded a \$55,500 grant from the City of Longview in support the group's 2016 festival event.

Festival officials said that the will be used to fund artist fees, marketing, and artistic services such as sound and lighting.

Dietrich Johnson, liaison to the city's Cultural Activities Advisory Commission, said that the amounts awarded were based on artistic or cultural merit, community outreach, administrative and fiscal

responsibility "as well as the ability to provide matching funds."

The source of the funds is from the city's hotel/motel occupancy tax. In all, about \$285,000 was awarded to seven local arts and cultural groups to support and encourage 2016 activities.

Other organizations receiving funds are Longview Ballet Theatre, Longview Symphony League, the Gregg County Historical Museum, Longview Museum of Fine Arts, ArtsView Children's Theatre and the East Texas Symphonic Band.

The T-Bone Walker Blues Fest is named for the iconic musician Aaron Thibeaux Walker, who was born in 1910 near Linden, Texas, and was a transformational figure in blues and other genres. He was inducted into both the Blues Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The two-day 2015 T-Bone Walker Blues Fest featured internationally recognized blues artists performing on two stages.

The festival is a fund-raiser for the non-profit corporation whose mission is to showcase contemporary blues musicians, promote a strong future for 'The Blues' genre, and to help local 501(c)3 organizations provide blues music education, youth music education, and music therapy.

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