



DRAFT – CONFIDENTIAL – FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

**STATE FAIR OF TEXAS
Job Description**

Employment Type: Independent Contractor (via annual talent agreement)
Job Title: Voice of Big Tex
Department: Public Relations
Reports To: Karissa Condoianis, Senior Vice President of Public Relations
Updated: February 2020

ABOUT THE STATE FAIR OF TEXAS

Since its inception in 1886, the State Fair of Texas has celebrated all things Texan by promoting agriculture, education, and community involvement through quality entertainment in a family-friendly environment. The State Fair of Texas is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with proceeds helping to preserve and improve our home, Fair Park; underwrite museums, community initiatives, and scholarship programs to support students throughout the Lone Star State pursuing higher education; and help improve State Fair operations. Visit BigTex.com for more information.

SUMMARY

Howdy, folks! Since 1952, Big Tex has served as the ambassador of the State Fair of Texas who greets millions of fairgoers each year. Big Tex is a cultural icon. Traits like friendliness, generosity, loyalty, persistence, and commitment are commonly used when describing Texans. Big Tex personifies what it means to be Texan. The Voice of Big Tex helps bring our 55-foot cowboy to life.

The State Fair of Texas is seeking voice talent to serve as the new Voice of Big Tex. Voice talent will perform as the Voice of Big Tex and assist with related operations during the annual State Fair of Texas event and as needed throughout the year.

The Voice of Big Tex plays a key role in influencing audiences about the annual event and the overall mission of the nonprofit organization. Recordings of Big Tex's voice could be used throughout all State Fair of Texas collateral to promote and communicate the messaging of the event and organization. We are looking for the best voice talent to help us record professional voice overs and live readings for Big Tex.

This position is independently contracted through a talent agreement and is reviewed annually based on overall job performance from the previous year. However, our goal is to create a long-lasting collaboration as we have historically with individuals in this position.

DUTIES and RESPONSIBILITIES

Essential and other important responsibilities and duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Under direction of the SVP, primary responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Performing, under strict anonymity, as the Voice of Big Tex and assist with related programming during the annual State Fair of Texas event, and as needed throughout the year;
- Reading provided scripts live through PA system, as requested;
- Recording provided scripts in studio prior to the Fair;
- Operating Voice of Big Tex computer system during the State Fair of Texas;
- Monitoring Big Tex operations and notifying team of any issues as soon as possible;
- Always maintaining confidentiality and anonymity as the Voice of Big Tex – the attention should be on the 55-foot cowboy. Your role is to help bring him to life;
- Project a positive image of all aspects of the State Fair of Texas within the community at all times;
- Perform additional related duties and responsibilities as assigned.

EXPERIENCE and TRAINING GUIDELINES

Preferred Education, Skills, Qualities, and/or Experience include, but are not limited to:

- A true Texan, no matter if you were born here or got here as quick as you could;
- Ability to speak with a male Texas accent and drawl;
- Ability to read provided scripts as directed;
- Ability to speak in multiple tones of voice as directed;
- Ability to speak clearly and with a pleasing voice to record several scripts given;
- Great reading and comprehension skills in English, and a variety of culturally significant languages;
- Ability to read from scripts in a natural, conversational way;
- Ability to handle confidential or sensitive information;
- Maintaining a high level of ethics and trustworthiness;
- Ability to collaborate with team members;
- Ability to take direction well;
- Excellent communication and organizational skills;
- Excellent attention to detail and follow-through;
- Ability to maintain a positive attitude;
- Ability to perform and stay calm under tight deadlines;
- Tech savvy – ability to operate a computer and microphone/PA system, as directed;
- Ability to commute to Fair Park and/or the recording studio, as needed;
- Commitment to work on site during business hours all 24 consecutive days of the annual State Fair of Texas;
- Willingness to work a flexible schedule, including early mornings, nights, weekends, and holidays, as needed;
- Bilingual – ability to speak English and Spanish – a plus;
- Prior experience doing voiceover work isn't required.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Environmental Conditions:

- Office environment; exposure to computer screens;
- Exposure to a range of environments, including outdoors and all-weather conditions, during the annual State Fair of Texas event.

Physical Conditions:

- Essential and other important responsibilities and duties require maintaining physical condition necessary for sitting or standing for prolonged periods of time; walking outdoors; working consistently requires manual dexterity.

HOW TO APPLY

- Visit BigTex.com/Voice to review and complete application;
- Upload a voiceover reading with provided Big Tex sample scripts with your application that you think best represents the Big Tex character;
- Applicant must provide 3 professional/character references;
- As candidates are narrowed down, applicant must pass a background check and drug test.

APPLICATION PROCESS & TIMELINE *(Dates approximate and subject to change)*

- Open Voice of Big Tex auditions – April 1, 2020
- Accept submissions online through April 15, 2020
- Notify those moving to round two of auditions by end of April
- In person interviews – Early May
- Notify those moving on to round three of auditions by mid-May
- In studio recording session – mid-to-late May
- Notify those moving on to round four of auditions
- PA system test – early June

- Notify new Voice of Big Tex by end of June

ONLINE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Full Name
- Address
- Phone number
- Email
- Date of birth
- Where were you born?
- How long have you lived in Texas?
- What does the State Fair of Texas mean to you?
- Why do you want to be the next Voice of Big Tex?
- If you are chosen, you cannot publicly disclose you are the Voice of Big Tex. We want the attention to remain on our 55-foot cowboy and not on the person performing as the voice. Do you agree to this requirement?
- Are you able to work from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. every day during the State Fair of Texas? The 2020 dates are Friday, September 25 through Sunday, October 18.
- Are you available for in studio recordings during the month of August?
- Would you consider yourself to be tech savvy?
- Can you comfortably operate a computer?
- Are you comfortable with sitting for long periods of time?
- Are you willing to undertake a drug test as part of this process?
- Are you willing to undergo a background check as part of this process?
- Please list three character and/or professional references with their contact information.
- Please upload your resume. (not required)
- Please upload a digital audio file of you reading the provided Big Tex scripts that you think best represents the Big Tex character.

SCRIPTS FOR AUDITION READING

1. Howdy, folks! This is Big Tex. Welcome to the State Fair of Texas
2. Hola, amigos! Bienvenidos al "State Fair of Texas."
3. The State Fair of Texas' mission is to celebrate all things Texan by promoting agriculture, education and community involvement through quality entertainment in a family-friendly environment.
4. It's a beautiful day at the State Fair of Texas. Just take it from me, the view is great from up here.
5. Soar on over to the Bandshell to witness the return of the beloved World of Birds Show, presenting Soar!
6. Celebrate a fiesta of color, culture, and creativity at the Fiesta de Marionetas show located in the McDonald's Amphitheatre.
7. Don't miss the Youth Livestock Auction today at one o'clock, to see a variety of animals from 4-H and F-F-A youth. The auction helps provide college scholarships to students throughout the Lone Star State.
8. What's a cowboy got to do to get a funnel cake around here?
9. Thanks for joining me today at the State Fair of Texas. Hope to see y'all again soon!
10. Howdy, Folks! Thank you for visiting the State Fair of Texas
11. Ad-lib three of your own lines you think Big Tex would say.

Audition tip: Big Tex is a big guy, standing at 55 feet tall, so speak slowly and draw out your words when you are a reading in your best Big Tex voice.

COLLATERAL/ASSETS

Webpage

Online Application with ability to upload audio file

Social Media Messaging driving to website to apply

VOICE OF BIG TEX SELECTION COMMITTEE

Rounds 1, 2, & 3

Karissa Condoianis
Rusty Fitzgerald
Jason Hays
Phillip Morales
Taylor Austin
Delaney Granberry

Round 4

Mitchell Glieber
Bob Hilbun
Jaime Navarro
Jennifer Schuder
Daryl Real
Melanie Linnear
Froswa' Booker-Drew