

August 2010

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As I approach my fifth year at the MAC, collectively we look back on Hurricane Katrina's rudeness and disruption of the community and serene coastal life we once knew. While the literal and figurative remnants of the storm still linger five years later, joined by the sting of the recent oil travesty, we can continue to look at the strength and resilience of our creative selves and the enduring determination of our creative communities. As we know, the artist typically lives in a place of transition and change, feast or famine, thus our coastal kin continue to carry on and are a very real source of inspiration as we reflect on these past years of recovery and restoration.

In my own reflection, I'm reminded that the art, culture, and sense of place in a community are irreplaceable sources of replenishment for the human spirit. Even though the sands were tossed and the waves hurled our possessions, culture's colorful and deep presence still remains the lifeblood of the coast. Compassion and caring still have very real meaning to our survival, and hope is still an essential beacon. The oil tragedy has ushered in the fifth year anniversary of Katrina with a bold underlining of the significance of our cultural offerings and the importance these offerings bring to this rich region. A region so rich in arts and culture, and producing such world-class visual artists as Walter Anderson, George Ohr, Richmond Barthe', and Dusti Bonge, must continue to celebrate the unique heritage and traditions indigenous to this area. My constant mantra, "the arts are the hope that cannot be lost or blown away," still resonates in August of 2010, and I remain committed and dedicated to the reality that arts and culture are a significant part of a comprehensive recovery.

The revitalization of arts-based businesses has been a steadfast focus of the Mississippi Arts Commission in these past five years of redevelopment and rebuilding. Their place as viable engines of local and coastal economies is proven, and we will continue to support the notion that the arts give us the communities we want to live in. The creative community, through expression and diversity, has been constantly documented as a key economic indicator of revitalization across the globe. Non-traditional assets are becoming increasingly important in the development of a community. The MAC has partnered and collaborated with numerous cultural entities since August of 2005 to assist the creative economy of the coast in remaining a massive and diverse fabric of arts, music, food, festivals and celebration. As we honor this fifth anniversary, we commit once again to a future that passionately validates the respect that the cultural component of this area deserves. Together, and in sober remembrance of August 29, 2005, let's hold fast to the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "What lies behind you and what lies in front of you, pales in comparison to what lies inside of you."

My Best,
Malcolm



WHOLE SCHOOLS SUMMER INSTITUTE A HUGE SUCCESS

MAC Staff

Malcolm White
Executive Director

Lee Powell
Deputy Director

Susan Dobbs
Public Relations
Director

Teresa Haygood
Executive Assistant

Judi Holifield
Whole Schools
Initiative Program
Director

Sallye Killebrew
Special Initiatives
Director

Mary Margaret Miller
Heritage Director

Larry Morrissey
Director of Grant
Programs

Alesha Nelson
Fiscal Officer

Shirley Smith
Systems
Administrator

Kim Whitt
Arts Education
Director

Diane Williams
Arts Industry Director

Allison Winstead
Arts-Based
Community
Development Director



The MSU Riley Center in Meridian was the perfect location for the 2010 Whole Schools Summer Institute. Themed "Bringing Heritage Home," the week-long event focused on training educators to focus on the amazing things in their own backyards while incorporating the arts across the curriculum. Special thanks to The Riley Foundation for their support of the Institute.

Top left: Our host, the MSU Riley Center

Top right: (from left to right) MAC's Director, Malcolm White with speakers, Barbara Carpenter of the MS Humanities Council, Governor William Winter, and Whole Schools Director, Judi Holifield

Bottom left: Pulitzer Prize winning poet and Mississippi native, Natasha Threthewey signed books after her keynote speech.

Bottom right: Everyone had a great time in class!

"ARTS IN EDUCATION WEEK"

SEPTEMBER 12-18, 2010



The U.S. House of Representatives recently declared the second week of September to be "Arts in Education Week." Representative Jackie Speier (D-CA) authored and introduced H. Con. Res. 275, which is the first Congressional attempt to truly support all the disciplines of arts education. According to Americans for the Arts,

"the resolution seeks to support the attributes of arts education that are recognized as instrumental to developing a well-rounded education such as creativity, imagination, and cross-cultural understanding." MAC would be interested to hear about your most memorable and/or moving arts experience in a school setting. Email your story to Kim Whitt, MAC's Arts Education Director, at kwhitt@arts.state.ms.us. Also, it provides the perfect opportunity for you to write your Congressmen to let them know the value of an education through the arts! http://www.mississippi.gov/ms_sub_sub_template.jsp?Category_ID=11

Calendar of Events

The Rising Son: A Story Piece

August 26-29, 2010
26-29-8:00pm - 29
2:00pm
Meek Hall Auditorium,
Ole Miss

BGCNMS Dance Like The Stars

Saturday, August 28
6:00 p.m.
BancorpSouth Arena,
Tupelo, MS

Howlin' Wolf 15th Annual Memorial Blues Festival

September 3, 2010
4:00 pm - Midnight
Civic Center, West Point,
MS

Ritz Blues Bash

September 4, 2010
9:00 am - 9:00 pm
The Ritz Theater
121 Commerce Street
West Point, MS

Tennessee Williams Tribute and Tour of Victorian Homes

September 6-12, 2010
Columbus, MS

CelticFest Mississippi

September 10-12
7pm-12am, 10am-12am,
10:30-5:3
Mississippi Agricultural
and Forestry Museum

Water Tower Festival

September 17-18
Friday night Saturday All
day
Hernando, MS

Bits' N Pieces Puppets perform The Ugly Duckling.

September 19, 2010
2:00 p.m.
Holmes Community
College

To have your event listed on MAC's calendar, visit the calendar section of our website.



MISSISSIPPI'S POET LAUREATE WINIFRED HAMRICK FARRAR

Winifred Hamrick Farrar was appointed Poet Laureate on July 31, 1978. Mrs. Farrar was born on a family farm near Collinsville. She graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1945, married Robert H. Farrar and remained with him until his death on May 19, 2009. They were together for 63 years. She taught English for thirty years in public schools in Meridian. She earned a Master's degree from the University of Southern Mississippi in 1962. She currently resides in Meridian.

IF YOU HAVE A MOMENT,
BECOME INSPIRED BY A CHILD!

<http://www.vimeo.com/13291577>

JIMMY PITTS 1967-2010

Jimmy Pitts from Oxford recently passed away and will be remembered for his amazing talent in every aspect of the arts. Growing up in Corinth, Jimmy began developing a creative outlook on his life at a very early age, spending long hours drawing, reading, listening to AM radio and his parents' collection of 50s and 60s crooners and popular stars, and writing. He began making art and writing poetry in high school and continued his love of both through adulthood.

Photo from Jimmy Pitts Facebook Page



TWO GULF COAST ARTISTS MENTIONED IN CNN BLOG

CNN Correspondent Tom Foreman included information about Mississippi Gulf Coast artists, Michelle Allee and Lori Gordon, in his "Letter to the President #549: Art for our sake" dated July 22, 2010. Foreman is an Emmy award-winning journalist who is writing a letter to President Obama each day. It is amazing to see two artists, who lost everything in the storm, receive the recognition they deserve, and to see that someone really GETS what the arts mean!

<http://ac360.blogs.cnn.com/category/letters-to-the-president/page/4/>



The Mississippi Arts Hour can be heard statewide on Sunday's at 3pm on Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Think Radio. Find the station nearest you by visiting mpbonline.org. The show can also be heard on MAC's website and through Apple's iTunes

Upcoming shows

September 5

Larry Morrissey hosts with musician and craftsman, Joe Partridge

September 12

Diane Williams hosts with arts educator, Althea Jerome

September 19

Mary Margaret Miller hosts with husband and wife, Erin Austin Abbot (visual artist) and Sean Kirkpatrick (member of the band, Colour Revolt)

September 26

Malcolm White hosts with Stuart Rosenfeld and Michael Kane, whom recently conducted a creative economy study in Mississippi

*All glory comes
from daring to
begin.*
Anonymous



home. The structure is falling into disrepair and without a group of committed individuals to spearhead the project, this incredible place will be lost forever. Photographer, Suzi Altman has established it as a Pepsi Refresh project. Go to www.refresheverything.com to find out more about this program. The Margaret's Grocery link will be live on September 1st and in order to get funding, the project must rank in the top 10 on the first day it is listed. You must join the site in order to vote. The project will be titled: Restore Margaret's Grocery/Rev. Dennis' Castle/Folk Art Icon. Please forward this information to those who will take a moment to vote.

The preservation effort was recently included in the [National Geographic's Intelligent Travel Blog](#). Contact MAC's Heritage Director, [Mary Margaret Miller](#) to find out more about this meaningful project!

The American Academy in Rome invites applications for the Rome Prize competition. One of the leading overseas centers for independent study and advanced research in the arts and the humanities, the Academy offers up to thirty fellowships for periods ranging from six months to two years. Rome Prize winners reside at the Academy's eleven-acre center in Rome and receive room and board, a study or studio, and a stipend. Stipends for six-month fellowships are \$13,000 and stipends for eleven-month fellowships are \$30,000. For further information, or to apply, visit the Academy's website at www.aarome.org or contact the American Academy in Rome, 7 East 60 Street, New York, NY 10022, Attention: Programs, 212-751-7200 ext. 47, info@aarome.org.



NEWEST MEMBER OF THE MAC FAMILY

Join us in welcoming the newest member of the MAC family! Teresa Haygood has joined the staff as the Executive Assistant. She is originally from Memphis and moved to Jackson to attend Millsaps College where she graduated in 1993. She runs her own glass and mosaics studio and is a member of the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi. Teresa is an outstanding new addition to the team!