

December 2008

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**Greetings from the Mississippi Arts Commission!**

**Public (and Private) Funding of the Arts**

As many of you have heard and read, the Governor has required all state agencies to reduce our budgets by 2% in this current fiscal year as a result of falling tax revenues. The Mississippi Arts Commission has fully complied by making several cuts in agency operations that will NOT affect our grant programs or those we serve.

However, Governor Barbour has recommended a 5.2% cut in our fiscal 2010 budget for the Legislature to consider in the upcoming session. We were disappointed to learn this, as most other agencies that are being asked to take cuts (and all are not) are being asked to take 4% decreases. We remain hopeful that the Legislature will not follow the Governor's recommendations. It is our hope that the Legislature will not want the Arts Commission's budget to be trimmed more than other state agencies. It will be a challenge to withstand a 5.2% decrease in state funding and not see an impact on our grant programs, but I am committed to avoiding grant cuts if at all possible.

It is important to know that in this economic climate, the funding and public support for the arts is critical and cannot be compromised. We should not stand for being dismissed as expendable or less-than-necessary. Never does a society need the arts and culture more than in times of crisis. Never is arts education more essential, community pride more vital, or the creative economies of small communities more important than today.

Imagine if you will, cutting the arts and culture out of the recovery plan in the aftermath of Katrina, or out of the conversation of how communities, schools and institutions revitalize after disaster. We will not be marginalized or excused to the children's table while the adults consider how resilience occurs in society. When creativity and imagination are cut, everyone suffers.



Continued.....

## MAC Staff

Malcolm White  
Executive Director

Lee Powell  
Deputy Director

Susan Dobbs  
Public Relations  
Director

Judi Holifield  
Whole Schools  
Initiative Program  
Director

Sallye Killebrew  
Arts Recovery  
Coordinator

Larry Morrissey  
Director of Grants &  
Special Initiatives

Alesha Nelson  
Fiscal Officer

Shirley Smith  
Systems  
Administrator

Candice Thomley  
Executive Assistant

Kim Whitt  
Arts in Education  
Director

Diane Williams  
Arts Industry Director

Allison Winstead  
Arts-Based  
Community  
Development Director

It is also very important that we understand and be mindful of the whole picture of funding for the arts in Mississippi. MAC is funded by the federal government through the National Endowment for the Arts (public), by the state government through the Legislature (public) and by private resources through the newly-created Mississippi Endowment for the Arts. This is a three-legged stool that cannot stand on one or two without all three. So as the state considers cuts, remember that the federal and private pieces become even more crucial. When state and federal funding is altered, the private (Mississippi Endowment for the Arts) component becomes ESSENTIAL. Our Endowment is the leveler, the consistent and stable source that we can go to when the public funding seas become rough. If ever there were a time to consider the need for the Endowment (and Katrina was another obvious time for a rainy day fund for the arts), look no further than these economic seasick times.

And finally, after all this talk of funding, remember that the MAC is a funding and service agency. Service is our hallmark, granting is our honor. We seek to serve the arts, arts institutions, and the creative and cultural value in our state. We are your creative partners and hope you will call on us often.

(Pictured: Malcolm on a recent visit to Tishomingo County High School with Art Teacher, Ann Waller and Principal, Dr. Eddie Britton.)

### News from Mississippi Gulf Coast Arts Community

I recently learned that Gayle Petty-Johnson has announced her intentions to step down as Director of the Walter Anderson Museum of Art (WAMA) in Ocean Springs. Gayle and I arrived at our respective posts in close proximity to the days Katrina came ashore. We collectively set into motion our response and recovery and began to consider our new arts and cultural reality on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. While the western coast of arts-based communities like Bay St. Louis and Pass Christian were obliterated by the eye of the storm, many parts of the eastern coast were more fortunate but nonetheless hurt and damaged. Ocean Springs lost much but was spared in comparison to its cousins to the west. It was in this environment that Gayle and her board began to rebuild and rethink WAMA. Oddly enough, she was the second-longest tenured museum director on the coast with three years of service. The stalwart and tenacious Robin Krohn David at Biloxi's Maritime and Seafood Museum is now the dean of museum directors along the golden gulf coast. Joining Robin is a new generation of arts leaders that includes Cynthia Minton of The Lynn Meadows Discovery Center in Gulfport and Denny Mecham at the Biloxi-based Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art. Beyond those new cultural faces, the Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center in Ocean Springs has a new director in Eric Zala. Some say that since August 2005, time itself has been redefined, while certainly many lives have been rearranged. Now more change is in the air as this new leadership brings continued dedication and passion to the Mississippi Gulf Coast's museum family. We wish both the outgoing and incoming leadership great success and happiness.

Happy Holidays!

Malcolm

## Calendar of Events – December

### A Christmas Carol

December 4-21, 2008  
7:30 p.m. and 2 p.m.  
Sundays  
New Stage Theatre-  
Jackson MS

### "A Christmas Dream" by Ballet Magnificat!

December 4, 2009  
7:00 p.m.  
Holmes Community  
College Corey Forum  
Grenada, MS

### Peter & the Wolf and The Nutcracker Sweets

December 4, 5, 10 and  
12, 2008  
9 AM and 10:30 AM  
Millsaps College,  
Jackson, Miss.

### Peppermint Pops

Date: December 5th  
Time: 8 pm  
Location: MSU Riley  
Center

### Starkville Area Arts Council Annual Gala

Friday, December 5th  
6:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m.  
Hunter Henry Ctr-MSU  
Campus-Starkville, MS

### Holly Days Arts & Crafts Show

December 6, 2008  
9:30am-4:30pm  
Southern Cultural  
Heritage Auditorium,  
Vicksburg

### The Jesus Painter

December 6, 2008  
7:00pm  
MSU Lee Hall



## WILLIAM GRANT STILL...“ON THE ROAD”

*“William Grant Still: Inspired to Inspiring,”* is a traveling exhibit sponsored through a collaborative partnership between the Mississippi Arts Commission, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Mississippi Library Commission and the Mississippi Humanities Council. Consisting of eight free-standing fabric panels, the exhibit celebrates the life and work of the Woodville, Mississippi native. Still’s life and music were celebrated in 2007 when MAC’s first American Masterpieces Initiative featured a series of concerts showcasing his legendary masterpieces. The concerts involved a partnership with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, choirs from eight Mississippi Universities, and five performing arts venues across the state. It is our honor to continue the celebration of his artistic achievements through this traveling exhibit. The scheduled locations and dates are as follows:

### 2008

Nov 17-Dec 19  
Dec 22-Jan 16

Columbus-Lowndes Public Library  
Carnegie Public Library/Clarksdale

### 2009

Jan 19-Jan 30  
Feb 02-Feb 27  
Mar 02-Mar 27  
Apr 06-Apr 30  
May 06-May 29  
June 06-June 30  
July 06-July 31  
Aug 06-Sept 02  
Sept 07-Sept 30  
Oct 05-Oct 30  
Nov 18-Nov 22

MS Dept of Archives & History/Jackson  
Rust College/Holly Springs  
Lee County Library/Tupelo  
Robert C. Irwin Public Library/Tunica  
Lexington Public Library/Lexington  
Gulf Coast Community College/Gautier  
MSU Riley Center/Meridian  
Forrest County Public Library/Hattiesburg  
Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library  
Alcorn University(JD Boyd Library)/Lorman  
William Grant Still Conference/Natchez

For more information, contact 601/359-6030.

## VIRGINIA CENTER FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR FELLOWSHIPS

One of the foremost international working retreats for the world's finest artists, the VCCA provides residential fellowships of two weeks to two months, where artists are free to focus on their creative work without the responsibilities and distractions of daily life. Admission is highly selective, and all visual artists, writers, and composers are eligible to apply. Applications are accepted three times a year, at the following deadlines: January 15, May 15 and September 15. There is no fee to attend the VCCA, but accepted artists are asked to contribute financially to their fellowship if possible. The basis for admission is professional achievement or promise of achievement.

Located on 450 acres of beautiful farm land in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Amherst, Virginia, about three hours south of Washington, D.C., the VCCA provides private rooms, studios and all meals to its Fellows, hosting more than 350 individuals each year (25 at one time) at its historic Mt. San Angelo estate. For more information, visit <http://www.vcca.com/apply.html>.

## MAC WELCOMES NEW HERITAGE DIRECTOR MARY MARGARET MILLER



The MAC's Heritage Program strives to increase awareness and foster the continuation of Mississippi's traditional art forms. Mary Margaret Miller has been selected as the new Heritage Director and brings a wealth of knowledge to her new position. She received an MA in Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi. She wrote a thesis on race, place and social identity in the rural American South called, "From King Cotton to Custom Kitchens: Revitalization in Downtown Greenwood, Mississippi." She has been trained by the Library of Congress and the American Folklife Center in documentary fieldwork and oral history technique.

She is a native of the Mississippi Delta. Her writing and photography has appeared in *The Clarion-Ledger*, *The Tennessean*, *Living Blues Magazine*, *Delta Magazine* and *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*.

She previously lived in Nashville, where she worked as a communications specialist at Nashville International Airport.

We hope you will join us in welcoming Mary Margaret to the MAC family!

### **The Nutcracker**

December 5-7  
3:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
Madison Square  
Center for the Arts  
Madison, MS

### **Mel and Pam Tillis - A Tillis Family Christmas**

Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008  
4 & 8 p.m.  
MSU Riley Center,  
Meridian, MS

### **Native Daughters: Conversation on Poetry/Painting**

December 11, 2008  
7:00pm  
Southern Cultural  
Heritage Foundation,  
Vicksburg

### **Civic League of Gulfport's 47th Christmas Tour of Homes**

December 14, 2008  
2pm to 5pm  
See MAC website for  
details

### **Abby Rd Art Club- gift making workshop for kids**

Dec. 18-19  
10am-4pm  
22198 Abby Road  
Pass Christian, MS

**Visit the Calendar  
page on the MAC  
website for more  
information on  
these events OR to  
have your event  
listed or to find  
out more on these  
events!**



Listen to MAC's "Mississippi Arts Hour" Thursdays at 5:00pm on Jackson's WLEZ - 100.1FM and Sunday's at 3pm on Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Think Radio-WMPN 91.3. The show can also be heard on MAC's website and through Apple's iTunes

**December Shows:**

December 7  
Larry Morrissey hosts with Roger Stolle & Jeff Konkell

December 14  
Diane Williams hosts with Steel Pan Drummers, John Wooten & Ricky Burkhead

December 21  
Malcolm White hosts with renowned Mississippi artist, Bill Dunlap

December 28  
Malcolm White hosts with Blue Mountain (encore show)

**Imagination will often carry us to worlds that never were. But without it we go nowhere.**  
- Carl Sagan

## ARTS-RELATED JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Sun Valley Center for the Arts  
Executive Director  
Ketchum, Idaho

The Sun Valley Center for the Arts is a non-profit multi-arts organization founded in 1971. The mission of the Center is to provoke and stimulate the imagination while opening hearts and minds through excellence in diverse arts programming.

Reporting to the Board of Directors, the Executive Director will serve as chief operating officer and will be charged with providing leadership to the Sun Valley Center for the Arts, guided by its mission and values. For more information, visit [www.morrisberger.com](http://www.morrisberger.com) or email Jay Berger at [jberger@morrisberger.com](mailto:jberger@morrisberger.com).

Jackson's Community Radio Station, WLEZ-FM...host of MAC's Mississippi Arts Hour on Thursdays at 5:00pm...has switched from 103.7 to 100.1FM. The switch was made to provide a clearer signal for listeners. The station will still simulcast its broadcast signal on the world-wide-web at [WLEZFM.com](http://WLEZFM.com).

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIP OF THE MONTH

While weather radios have been strongly promoted in "hurricane alley" and other areas that are prone to weather-related disasters, shifting weather patterns make this inexpensive warning system a good investment anywhere. An NOAA Public Alert™ certified radio activates automatically when a warning in your area is issued by the National Weather Service, even if the radio is turned off. This is especially important if you are asleep or working in the studio and not tuned to a local radio or television station that carries the alerts. Information about weather radios, including coverage maps for your state and where to purchase, is available at the [National Weather Service website](http://National Weather Service website).

