

December 2009

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This year, the holiday season is a complicated time. As we embrace being thankful and strive to bring joy to the world, we are also faced with the complexity of how we accomplish this in these uncertain and challenging times. My suggestion, of course is to incorporate the arts into your daily life! How about setting aside some time for play, and engaging in creativity with family and friends.

I am reminded on a daily basis of all I have to be thankful for...the opportunity to serve my country, my state, and my community.

This includes working with schools, museums, at-risk youth, senior citizens, individual artists, and trying to reach all of the 2.9 million Mississippians who deserve the arts. I don't have to look far to see the need to promote, fund, and deliver creativity to this rich, diverse and deserving population. If you have not heard me say it lately, I have the best job in the world; I represent Mississippi's creative spirit! But doing ordinary and extraordinary things in the most unordinary time can be stressful and challenging. When the news and conversations are dominated by war, recession, budget cuts, and unemployment, we can be distracted, discouraged and perhaps disheartened. Never do we, as a nation, state and community, need our sense of adventure, imagination and joy to be more present. This is the time to celebrate, to come together and lift one another collectively. This is a time to be artful.

I have learned so many things in the past four years as director for the Mississippi Arts Commission. Among them....

- Mississippi is blessed with an abundance of cultural resources.
- The arts are alive and understood as a significant part of our story.
- Our state is financially better off than most state governments.
- Collaboration and partnerships are the key to success.
- Mississippi has a plethora of capable leaders.
- Education is a part of the solution and teaching through the arts is essential.
- Economic development through arts and culture is real and is vital to our state's success.

Building a competitive 21st Century workforce requires developing whole minds and whole citizens, and this can be achieved through integrating and engaging right brain thinking and the arts. Funding is important, but collaboration and partnerships are crucial.

At the top of my list of things to be thankful for is the amazing staff and board of the Mississippi Arts Commission. Gratitude and joy are not just words, they're blessings.

I hope you have a Happy Holiday!

Malcolm



MAC Staff

Malcolm White
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MISSISSIPPI ARTS CONFERENCE - A GREAT SUCCESS!

Over 400 people recently attended the Mississippi Arts Conference held at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Jackson. *The Creativity Key....Unlock the Possibilities* proved to be a powerful theme, and attendees went away from the event with a renewed sense of purpose about the power of the arts and collaboration. The keynote speakers, Ted Gioia and his brother Dana on Thursday, and Bill Strickland on Friday, made everyone remember the value of the arts on every level. The Mississippi Arts Commission would like to thank everyone who attended and our valuable partners who served as speakers and panelists!

Photo right – Malcolm White, Director of MAC, welcomes attendees



Photo left – attendees prepare for a session.

Photo right – Laurel High School Choir perform on Friday morning.



Photo left – Friday keynote speaker, Bill Strickland

Photo right – Thursday keynote speakers, Ted Gioia (left) and Dana Gioia (right) with Mississippi business leader, Leland Speed (center).



Photo left – Lauren Rogers Museum Director, George Bassi (right) with MAC's Arts Industry Director, Diane Williams (left).

Calendar of Events – December

A Christmas Carol

December 3-20
7:30 p.m.; 2 p.m.
Sundays
New Stage Theatre,
Jackson MS

Belhaven Alumni Art Invitational Exhibition: Dayton Castleman

through December 19
Belhaven University –
Warren A. Hood
Library

Christmas at the Governor's Mansion

through December 23
MS Governor's
Mansion, Jackson

"Sounds of the Season"

through December 23
Old Capitol Museum,
Jackson

American Masters of the Mississippi Gulf Coast

through Jan 10, 2010
Walter Anderson
Museum of Art
Ocean Springs

Purchase
Mississippi
art for that
special
someone on
your list this
holiday!



MAC TO OFFER GRANT WRITING WORKSHOPS



The Mississippi Arts Commission will host a series of grant writing workshops around the state targeting Mississippi-based artists and arts organizations. The agency hopes to help prepare grant applicants for the upcoming March 1, 2010 deadline. First-time applicants are encouraged to attend.

The workshops will be held from 6:00pm to 7:30pm at all locations.

Tuesday, January 12
Tuesday, January 19
Tuesday, January 26
Tuesday, February 2

Waynesboro Public Library, Waynesboro
Natchez (site TBA)
Hernando Public Library, Hernando
Mary C. O'Keefe Cultural Center, Ocean
Springs
Flowood Public Library, Flowood
Grenada

Thursday, February 4
Date & site TBD

For more information, contact MAC at 601/359-6030.



The Mississippi Arts Commission invites you to attend an artist seminar for visual, performing, and literary artists. The seminar will address three components including hands-on activities and discussions in marketing, teaching artist training, and an open panel discussion.

Thursday, January 21, 2010

9:00am to 4:30pm

Mississippi Arts Center

201 East Pascagoula Street

Jackson, MS 39201

RSVP to Diane Williams at dwilliams@arts.state.ms.us or 601/359-6529

Coming in January

MSO Chamber II: Mozart by Candlelight
Saturday, January 9
7:30pm
Belhaven College
Center for the Arts

The BB King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center
Tuesday, January 12
7:00 p.m.
Location: Millsaps
College Recital Hall
Jackson, MS

MSO Bravo III: 1812 Overture & More!
January 23, 2010
7:30pm
Thalia Mara Hall 225
East Pascagoula
Jackson, MS

"A Little Night Music"
January 23-24, 2010
Sat, 8 pm; Sun, 3 pm
Mary C. O'Keefe
Cultural Center, Ocean
Springs, MS

2010 Jackson Jewish Film Festival
January 24, 2010
2:00pm
Millsaps College, 1701
North State Street,
Jackson

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!



The Mississippi Arts Commission is pleased to partner with the Mississippi Development Authority – Tourism Division to offer the 5th Annual Festival & Event Coordinators Workshop. The workshop will be held on January 26th in McComb and on January 28th in Tupelo.

Questions??
Call Mary Margaret Miller
MAC Heritage Director
601/359-6030

Pre-register at www.visitmississippi.org/workshop/

CALLING ALL ART TEACHERS!

YOU COULD RECEIVE \$1,000 FOR YOUR CLASSROOM!

By submitting your students' artwork to the *All Kids Can . . . CREATE!*, you are eligible to receive \$1,000 for use in your classroom. Up to five teachers will receive \$1,000 each, based on the number of submissions from your class or school, the number of submissions from students with disabilities, and your answer to two short questions. For more information, log on to Artsonia at www.artsonia.com/allkidscancreate.



The Big Read is accepting applications from nonprofit organizations to conduct month-long, community-wide reads between September 2010 and June 2011. The Big Read is a national program designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture. Organizations selected to participate in The Big Read will receive a grant ranging from \$2,500 to \$20,000, access to online training resources, educational and promotional materials, inclusion of your organization and activities on The Big Read Web site, and the prestige of participating in a highly visible national program. Approximately 75 organizations from across the country will be selected by a panel of experts. For more information visit http://neabigread.org/application_process.php



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 visit mpbonline.org. The show can also be heard on MAC's website and through Apple's iTunes

Upcoming shows

December 20
Malcolm White hosts with artists and furniture makers NunoErin of Jackson

December 27
Larry Morrissey hosts with Eric Zala with the Ohr O'Keefe Cultural Center, Ocean Springs

January 3
Diane Williams hosts with singer/songwriter Tricia Walker

*This is the season for
kindling the fire of
hospitality in the hall,
the genial flame of
charity in the heart.*
- Washington Irving

ARTS IN CRISIS: A KENNEDY CENTER INITIATIVE



MSU Riley Center is the state's host for The Kennedy Center's national initiative to assist non-profit arts organizations in need. Michael Kaiser, President of The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, will address the challenges facing non-profit arts organizations today through such areas as fundraising, building more effective Boards, budgeting, and marketing. The event is free and open to all non-profit arts organizations.

The event will take place on **Thursday, January 21, 2010 from 9:00am to 11:30am at the MSU Riley Center in Meridian.**

To learn more about the initiative, visit www.artsinacrisis.org.

Please pre-register at: www.msurileycenter.com.

Photo of Michael Kaiser by Ilan Mizrahi



MAC Grant Submission
Deadline
March 1, 2010

