

December 2010

MAC Board of Commissioners

Carol Puckett
Chairman

Stephanie Punches
1st Vice-Chairman

Myrna Colley-Lee
2nd Vice-Chairman

Donna Barksdale

Courtney Blossman

Barbara Brunini

Gail Daigneault

Lawrence Farrington

Kris Gianakos

Sam Haskell

Beverly Herring

Nell Middleton

Robert St. John

Nan Sanders

David Trigiani

Nancy Yates

Mississippi's artistic heritage has grown strong and vibrant from the culturally rich soil of our great state. The music genres of the blues, bluegrass, gospel, country and rock and roll were all cultivated right here in Mississippi. In 2009, Governor Haley Barbour embraced the mantra that our great state is the "Birthplace of America's Music." When visitors cruise into Mississippi from one of our neighboring states, they are greeted by big, green signs denoting the land ahead as the home of magnolias and music.

The Mississippi Blues Trail, and now the Country Music Trail, are helping put Mississippi on the national map of cultural and heritage tourism, and any visitor, or local for that matter, would be remiss to think that the only art form Mississippi mothers is music.

She's also mother to the Rev. H.D. Dennis, who until recent years lived with his wife, Margaret, on Old Highway 61 outside of Vicksburg in a modest home turned "castle," known to most as Margaret's Grocery. Passersby might see him building a tower from cinderblocks and Styrofoam or catch a glimpse of Miss Margaret in her housecoat, painting posts pink and freshening plastic flowers planted in the yard. If they stopped, they'd be welcomed, "both Jews and gentiles," into the school bus turned sanctuary, where the overwhelming beauty of Rev. Dennis' folk art creation, as well as the conviction in his impromptu oration, might move them to visit again. Or in today's case, provoke them to get involved in the effort to save this one-of-a-kind cultural gem.

Mississippi is mother to Elaine Goodman, a self-taught folk artist from Columbus who has a passion for pop culture. Her meticulously beaded, painted and quilted creations transform ordinary objects into highly sought after artwork. Hollywood stars like Nicolas Cage and Julia Roberts are collectors of her work, and if you dig up the November 1990 issue of Rolling Stone, you'll find Elaine's "Altar to Elvis" emblazoned in its pages. While Elaine has an international fan base, she is perfectly, happily at home in Lowndes County where she traverses yard sales and junk stores on the weekends, in search of the next perfect piece to transform.

Mississippi is mother to kibbie and cornbread, sitting side by side on the same menu at the Resthaven Restaurant in Clarksdale. The Chamoun family shares recipes, stories, tall tales and history with the customers, family and friends who pass through the doors at this highway side cafe. In the kitchen, three generations have learned and perfected the art of rolling grape leaves, whipping meringue and seasoning tabouli. In the front of the house, locals help themselves to coffee while the out-of-towners contemplate whether to order cabbage rolls or catfish.

There is something in the water and soil here in Mississippi that nourishes the creative spirit of the people. While we might not always identify our friends and neighbors as artists, I'm certain that we all have someone in our life who cooks the perfect cheese grits, smocks baby clothes for the newborns, carves decoys for the mantle or weaves the bottoms of chairs. These talents are not taught in school (but perhaps they should be); they are passed on from the generations before and conjured by the sheer need for beauty in our everyday lives.

During this season, why not celebrate and be thankful for the folk and traditional artists in your family or community to ensure that Mississippi remains mother to many native art forms and expressions.

Happy Holidays from all of us at the Mississippi Arts Commission!
Malcolm

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO MISSISSIPPI RECIPIENTS OF NEA CHALLENGE AMERICA GRANT

The National Endowment for the Arts recently announced the recipients of their Challenge America Fast Track grant. Four Mississippi organizations were among the 170 grant recipients. These grants offer support primarily to smaller and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, demographics, economics, or disability. The four recipients are:

Mississippi Cultural Crossroads, Inc – Port Gibson
Mississippi Festival Foundation, Inc – Sardis
New Stage Theatre – Jackson
North Mississippi Hill Country Picnic, Inc – Potts Camp

For more information on the grant and how to apply, visit
<http://www.nea.gov/grants/recent/11grants/11cham.php?disc=Challenge%20America>

MAC OFFERS GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP



MAC will offer a grant writing workshop on Tuesday, January 18, 2011, from 6:00pm to 7:30pm. The workshop will be held at the Mississippi Craft Center. There is no admission fee and no registration is required.

For more information, call 601/359-6030



BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MS FOUNDATION TO EXTEND SUPPORT OF MAC'S MOVING TOWARD THE ART OF GOOD HEALTH INITIATIVE

MAC recently learned that Blue Cross Blue Shield of MS Foundation will continue support of the ballroom dance fitness initiative, Moving Toward the Art of Good Health. Started as a pilot program three years ago in the Bay/Waveland School District, the program was created to help sixth grade students develop a healthier lifestyle. It focuses not only on improving their food choices, but their overall health and wellness...and what better way to burn calories than by ballroom dancing! The program will now be taken into 10 schools statewide and Health and PE teachers will be trained in the integrated health curriculum. Special thanks to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MS Foundation for their support of this outstanding MAC initiative. Visit <http://www.arts.state.ms.us/special-projects/movingtowardtheartofgoodhealth.php> to find out more!

Calendar of Events

December

New Stage Theatre presents A Christmas Carol

December 3-19
7:30 p.m. / Sundays at 2:00 p.m.
1100 Carlisle Street
Jackson

Scening of Verdi's Falstaff from Belgium

December 19
2:00 PM
Russell C. Davis
Planetarium, Jackson

Coming in January

Mozart's Cosã fan Tutte from Royal Opera House

January 2
2:00 PM
Russell C. Davis
Planetarium, Jackson

MET Opera Soprano Susanna Phillips in Concert

January 14
7:30 PM
Wesley Biblical Seminary

Mississippi Theatre Association

January 14-16
TBA
MSU Riley Center
Meridian

Ceili, Irish Dance for Everyone

January 16
2:00 to 5:00 PM
Fenian's Pub, Jackson

Screening of Verdi's La Traviata from La Scala

January 23
2:00 PM
Russell C. Davis
Planetarium, Jackson

AIA MISSISSIPPI WANTS YOUR VOTE! LOG ON AND CHOOSE THE 2010 AIA MISSISSIPPI PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

The American Institute of Architects, Mississippi Chapter, is currently seeking the public's vote to determine the winner of the 2010 People's Choice Award. Each year, Mississippi architects submit their best projects for design awards at the Chapter's annual convention. This year, "there were a wide variety of projects and very good architecture presented that provided the grounds for lively and spirited debate among the jurors."

Beginning Wednesday, November 24, 2010, and ending Thursday, December 30, 2010, all 36 projects from the AIA Mississippi 2010 Design Award submissions will be displayed on the chapter's website:

www.aiamississippi.org. The entries showcase the design talent of architects from all regions of Mississippi in new construction, renovation, and more. The 2010 People's Choice Award winner will be announced on the website the first week of 2011.

FREE 2011 FESTIVAL AND EVENT COORDINATORS WORKSHOP

JAN 25 COLUMBUS
JAN 27 YAZOO CITY

SPONSORED BY
Mississippi Arts Commission & Mississippi Development Authority
Tourism Development

mac MISSISSIPPI

Join the Mississippi Arts Commission and the Mississippi Development Authority Tourism Division for a FREE workshop featuring some of the most outstanding presenters in the field. To register for the workshop visit, visitmississippi.org/workshop/

This Holiday Season, give yourself the gift of a FREE promotional opportunity! Sign up for the Mississippi Visual Arts Directory website! The Mississippi Arts Commission is proud to provide this outstanding website to Mississippi visual artists and craftsmen, museums and cultural centers and arts education facilities.

Visit www.visualarts.ms.gov for find out more!





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

December 19

Malcolm White hosts with filmmaker, Chandler Griffin from Barefoot Workshops

December 26

Larry Morrissey hosts with blues musician, Ben Payton

January 2

Diane Williams hosts with Cynthia Newland about Tunes, Tutus and Turning Wheels

January 9

Mary Margaret hosts with photographer, Bruce West

*Nobody can
bring you peace
but yourself.*
Ralph Waldo
Emerson

ARTS-RELATED JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Artist for Workshops

Grumbacher paint is looking for accomplished artists who can teach two hour acrylic workshops at a major retailer. Specifically, we are looking for those capable of demonstrating a still life, landscape, seascape, and floral. We have developed a flexible curriculum in acrylics for an artist to use or to adapt it to fit the artist's style. Compensation is \$100/workshop.

The artist will teach approximately two to four workshops per store per month and the artist will have flexibility in their scheduling. The workshops will be geographically located all over the U.S. and Canada, but we are currently looking to fill a position in Hattiesburg, MS. All teaching materials will be provided to the artist at no cost.

If you or anyone you know may be interested please email Joe Czerapowicz - jczerapowicz@chartpak.com.



The Staff of the Mississippi Arts Commission
invites you to a
Reception and Art Show
featuring the work of MS Department of Medicaid
employee, Larry Smith
Thursday, December 16
2:00pm to 4:00pm
11th Floor, Woolfolk State Office Building

