

February 2015

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Dear Friends,

The *Year of the Creative Economy* is off and running into the future with great interest and the new legislative session is underway with many interesting policies being discussed. We would like to encourage everyone to join us for the upcoming Mississippi Arts Commission's Governor's Arts Awards, celebrating and recognizing 27 years of the best of arts in Mississippi.

We are looking forward to a favorable legislative session and are hopeful that we will receive our request for funding so that the important work of the Arts Commission will continue. Without the support of the Governor, Lt. Governor, and our legislators, this agency would not be able to provide critical funding to communities and artists to do important and worthwhile work. We are fortunate to have the support of these policy-makers. They understand the connection the arts have to the state's economy, quality of life, and a sense of place for all Mississippians.

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, we invite you to join us as we celebrate the annual Governor's Arts Awards. This year we will honor the Lane Chapel Quintet, Maude Schuyler Clay, Chesney Blankenstein Doyle, the Mississippi State University Riley Center for Education and Performing Arts, and Craig Wiseman. These recipients will join the ranks of other gifted Mississippians such as B.B. King, John Grisham, Morgan Freeman, Bo Diddley, and the USA International Ballet Competition. This event is meant to not only recognize the accomplishments of the recipients, but to celebrate the artistry and creativity of Mississippi.

As we look forward to an exciting year ahead, it is my goal to continue to focus on the strategic directions of the Arts Commission.....*LIVE, WORK, LEARN*. We will continue to support the value of arts in education, lifelong learning, creative placemaking, the development of creative partnerships, supporting the development of individual artists, and access and equity for all.

Our best creative days are ahead.

Tom

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# Staff

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ARTicles Editor:  
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## JOIN MAC FOR AN ARTS CELEBRATION!

*THE 2015 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS  
TO BE A GRAND EVENT!*

The staff and Board of the Mississippi Arts Commission invite you to attend the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Governor's Arts Awards on Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Belhaven University Center for the Arts in Jackson. Prior to the ceremony, stop by for a reception honoring the recipients at 4:30pm at the Junior League of Jackson (next door to the Center). **Both events are free and open to the public!** For details visit <http://www.arts.ms.gov/special-projects/governors-awards.php>

Our host for the evening will be Thacker Mountain Radio's Jim Dees and entertainment will be provided by The Arts Awards Orchestra, under the direction of Joseph Britain. In addition to a few surprise performances, MAC Roster Artist Alphonso Sanders will perform with the orchestra.

This promises to be one of our most exciting awards ceremonies! Join us in celebration of this year's recipients...

### **Excellence in Music The Lane Chapel Quintet from Tupelo**



This group has been a beloved treasure in North Mississippi since they were founded in 1976. In recent years, the group has performed at countless festivals, competitions, and community gatherings, sharing their traditional gospel a cappella sound.

### **Excellence in Media Arts Chesney Blankenstein Doyle from Natchez**



Ms. Doyle developed the concept of creating documentary programs featuring collections of museums across the United States.

She and her husband Marc have traveled the country producing 13 original shows that define the award-winning public television series, *Great Museums*.

## Excellence in Visual Arts Maude Schuyler Clay from Sumner



At the start of her photography career, Ms. Clay worked for such publications as *Esquire*, *Fortune*, *Vanity Fair* and numerous other publications.

She moved back home to the Mississippi Delta to focus on her photography work. The rest, as they say, is history!

## Arts In Community Mississippi State University Riley Center for Education & Performing Arts in Meridian



This facility is a performing arts center, conference and educational center, as well as the beginning of a major downtown restoration project for Meridian.

Painstakingly restored, with assistance from The Riley Foundation, the MSU Riley Center is a beacon for the arts in downtown Meridian.

## Excellence in Music Craig Wiseman from Hattiesburg



If you listen to country music, it is highly likely you have heard the words and tunes of Craig Wiseman.

He was born and raised in Hattiesburg and is one of the most prolific and decorated songwriters in American country music.

Recently, ASCAP presented him with its Heritage Award in commemoration of the organization's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

He has written over 300 songs, charted 100 singles and has had 19 #1 hit songs.

## Calendar of events

### February

#### The Berenstain Bears LIVE! (School-Time Matinee)

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

9:30 & 11:30 a.m.

Bologna Performing Arts Center

Cleveland, MS

#### Millsaps College Arts and Lecture Series

February 17, 2015

7:00 P.M.

Millsaps College Recital Hall

Jackson, MS

#### Governor's Arts Awards

February 19, 2015

6:00pm (public reception at 4:30pm at the Junior League of Jackson)

Belhaven University Center of the Arts, Jackson, MS

#### Cabaret at Duling Hall

February 23, 2015

7:30 pm

622 Duling Ave

Jackson, MS

#### "The Red Velvet Cake War"

February 26 - March 4, 2015

7:30pm & 2:00 pm

Meridian Little Theatre Meridian, MS

Calendar of events  
February Continued

**The Great Gatsby**  
**(School-Time Matinee)**  
Thursday, February 26,  
2015  
10:00am  
Bologna Performing  
Arts Center  
Cleveland, MS

**March**

**Mississippi Poetry Out  
Loud Finals**  
Thursday, March 5  
1:00pm  
Mississippi Public  
Broadcasting Studios

**The Adventures of  
Harold and the Purple  
Crayon**  
Thursday, March 5,  
2015  
9:30 & 11:30am  
Bologna Performing  
Arts Center  
Cleveland, MS

**The Trip to Bountiful**  
March 19-21, 2015  
7:30 pm, 2 pm matinee  
on 21st  
Tupelo, MS

To have your  
event listed, visit  
<http://www.arts.ms.gov/calendar/index.php>

**MAC GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINE**  
**MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>**

MAC's annual grant application deadline for organizations and individual artists is Monday, March 2, 2015. MAC awards grants that support a wide range of arts activities, from fellowships for professional artists to project grants for activities produced by community organizations, as well as operating grants to nonprofit arts and arts service organizations.

Details on how to apply can be found on the agency website at [www.arts.ms.gov](http://www.arts.ms.gov). First-time applicants are encouraged to contact MAC staff before submitting an application at 601/359-6030.



**MAC Welcomes Newest  
Staff Member**

Recently, MAC staffer Connie Souto Learman moved into the position of Arts-Based Community Development Director, leaving her spot as Special Initiatives Director vacant. We are proud to announce that Allison Washington will be joining us to provide her capable talents to the MAC team. She previously worked as the Music Trails Program Manager in the Division of Tourism with the Mississippi Development Authority for the past 3 years. She is a native of Jackson and a 2009 graduate from Belhaven University with a B.A. in Communications.

**Professional Development & Funding Opportunities**

**Below are some opportunities of interest!**

**Creative Capital** - <http://creative-capital.org> Artist online workshops

**ArtPlace America** – Community Development Investments – Deadline March 12. <http://www.artplaceamerica.org/CDI/>

**SouthArts** – Opportunities for Filmmakers! <http://www.southarts.org/touring-arts/southern-circuit/>

**Meridian International Center, Washington D.C.** – Individual artists for mural projects in Brazil, Cuba, India and Turkey. [https://www.callforentry.org/festivals\\_unique\\_info.php?ID=2460&sortby=fair\\_name&apply=yes](https://www.callforentry.org/festivals_unique_info.php?ID=2460&sortby=fair_name&apply=yes)

**Mississippi Community Symphonic Band** – seeking applicant for “Susan D. Mayfield Memorial” Emerging Young Artist Award. [www.mcsb.us/scholarship](http://www.mcsb.us/scholarship)



## Festival & Event Planners Workshop in Hattiesburg a Great Success!

MAC is proud to partner each year with Mississippi Main Street and Visit Mississippi to present Backstage Pass for festival and event planners.

This year, MAC hosted the Artist Showcase and featured talent, not only from Mississippi, but also from Alabama and Louisiana. MAC is currently working to strengthen block-booking opportunities with our sister states through the Gulf States Presenters Network. A gathering from all three states took place during the workshop as an opportunity to brainstorm.

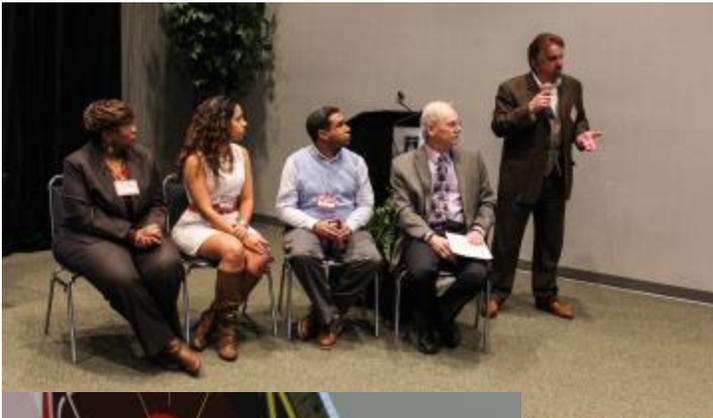


Photo top left: MAC's Executive Director, Tom Pearson, leads a discussion about the Presenters Network.

Photo top right: A member of Tupelo's Homemade Jamz rocked the house at the Artist Showcase.

Photo bottom right: The Lake Terrace Convention Center was a perfect venue for the event.



The Mississippi Arts Hour can be heard on Sundays at 3pm on Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Think Radio. Find the station nearest you by visiting [mpbonline.org](http://mpbonline.org). The show can also be heard on MAC's website.

February 15  
Tom talks with Governor's Arts Awards recipient, Craig Wiseman

February 22  
Larry with Blues artist, Terry "Harmonica" Bean

March 1  
Diane with writer, Benjamin Morris

March 8  
Turry with guest to be announced

New shows are posted to our Facebook page each Friday! "Like" us to stay up to date.

# Mississippi Arts Commission

In 1968, the Mississippi Legislature created the Mississippi Arts Commission as the official grants-making and service agency for the arts. Over the years, the Commission has broadened its role as an active supporter and promoter of the arts in community life and arts education. MAC's mission is to be a catalyst for the arts and creativity in Mississippi and the agency's vision is to support and celebrate Mississippi's creative and innovative spirit

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## SAVE THE DATE!!

### Arts Day at the Capitol

### March 25, 2015

### 11:30-1:30

Anyone who supports the arts in Mississippi should make plans to attend this important day for arts advocacy at the Mississippi State Capitol.

More details coming soon!



# POETRY OUT LOUD

The contest, presented in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Poetry Foundation, is part of a national program that encourages high school students to learn about great poetry using memorization and performance. The Mississippi contest began at the classroom level; school level; then on a regional level. Nine semi-finalists, three from each region, will participate in the state finals. The 2015 contestants are:

Joy Cariño – Mississippi School for Math and Science  
Whitney Porter – Independence High School  
Carys Snyder – Starkville High School  
Anna Daniels – Madison-Ridgeland Academy  
Lawson Marchetti – The Jackson Preparatory School  
Andre Vincent – Ridgeland High School  
Lucas Collinsgru – St. Martin High School  
Roney Jones – Mississippi School of the Arts  
Kailey Watson – Biloxi High School

## MAC Presents Poetry Out Loud Mississippi Finals

Join us at 1:00pm on Thursday, March 5, 2015 for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Mississippi Poetry Out Loud State Finals at Mississippi Public Broadcasting Studios in Jackson. The event is free and open to the public.