

Jan/Feb 2009

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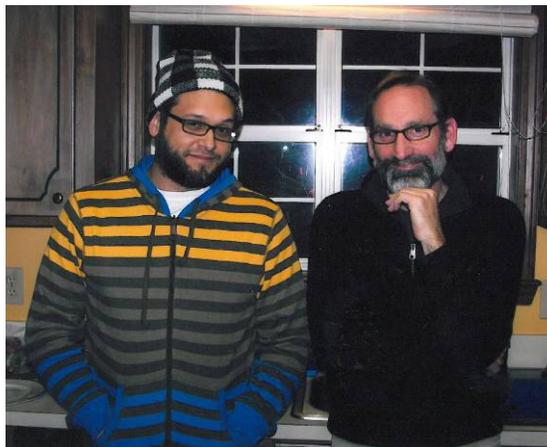
Stephanie Panches

Dianne Walton

**Greetings from the Mississippi Arts Commission!**

There is much talk in the news, at the dinner table, around the water cooler, and in Congress about our economic woes. These blues are not uniquely American, but are being felt across the globe. What is bad for GM is certainly bad for Perrier. I know the challenges and obstacles are daunting, if not often overwhelming, but it is the climate we have been given and in this climate we must prevail.

The facts regarding our funding are elementary, yet our finances are inextricably tied to the great Oz-like concept we call THE ECONOMY. The Arts Commission receives funding from the federal government, state government and from private sources. Recently, we have taken a 5% cut in our current operating budget from the state of Mississippi. This means shaving approximately \$100,000 from the state government funded portion of our budget. The approximately \$1.5 million state dollars we were authorized to spend in this fiscal year, has been adjusted to \$1.4 with a simple stroke of a #2 pencil. Additionally, we are watching as another piece of our funding formula called Education Enhancement (funds for arts education tied to tax collections around the state), shrinks along with the downward trend of state revenues. All of this is bad news for sure, but not nearly as bad as many of our fellow state arts agencies who are facing 20-50% cuts, laying off staff and reducing grant money to simply stay afloat. Mississippi is not recession proof, as I am sure you have learned by now, but we are better positioned than many of our friends and neighbors around the country. We have a flush "rainy day fund", fiscally conservative leadership in the executive branch and Legislature, and a state economy that was not tied to bad credit and the repugnant greed we read about daily.



Pictured: Malcolm discussing the local music scene with DJ Mr. Nick at the Mississippi Arts Collective meeting.

Malcolm's letter continues on next page.....

## 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

Mary Margaret Miller  
Heritage Director

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

I have a simple goal during all this turbulence and uncertainty – I intend to protect the money we grant to you. We will cut the agency to the core before we even consider deducting from the grant pool. In fact, my plan was to increase the grant amount this year and I intend to work toward that singular goal.

This is perhaps just the beginning of what is to come. We will be diligent, proactive and bold. We must not shrink from the challenge to excel in hard times, to lead when funds are lean, and to find ways to lift ourselves above the weight of history and this pop economy. Our artists and the arts organizations have always know how to “make do”, how to partner and collaborate, how to squeeze a nickel and make a dime. This is a time to be nimble and flexible. This is when creativity and imagination are priceless and essential. This is where we show the way, teach by example and learn from each other. Because we have just lived through the hell of Katrina.....because we know how to lean on our neighbors and leverage our faith.....because we know the meaning of resilience and benevolence, we are uniquely qualified to succeed. And we will.

So, as THE ECONOMY does its thing and Washington fires up the printing press, we will go about our day to day task of supporting and servicing the arts in Mississippi, articulating and accentuating the positive, as we continue to look for better, smarter ways to build the creative mouse trap. The arts exist as an extension and expression of the human experience, creativity is more important that the economy, and as Mr. Faulkner, one of our most artistic voices once said, “I believe that man will not merely endure. He will prevail. He is immortal, not because he alone among creatures has an inexhaustible voice, but because he has a soul, a spirit capable of compassion and sacrifice and endurance.”

My best,  
Malcolm

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OLD CAPITOL MUSEUM!!



The Old Capitol Museum will open to the public on Saturday, February 7, with a day of special events. Its regular hours will be Tuesdays through Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. with no admission fee.

## Calendar of Events – January

### Ian Hominick Piano Workshop

January 31, 2009  
10:00am  
Southern Cultural Heritage Auditorium

### Gee's Bend

Jan 27- Feb 8, 2009  
7:30pm & 2:00pm on Sundays  
New Stage Theatre, Jackson

### Future Stars

January 29, 2009  
7:30pm  
Bennett Auditorium, USM, Hattiesburg

## Coming in February

### Oxford Film Festival

February 5-8, 2009  
Times vary by day  
Malco's Oxford Studio Cinema, Oxford

### Punch Brothers Featuring Chris Thile

February 6, 2009  
8:00pm  
MSU Riley Center, Meridian

### Researching, Writing, Editing, School Presentation

February 7, 2009  
9:00am  
Hattiesburg, MS

### Rhapsody on the River

February 12, 2009  
7pm  
Southern Cultural Heritage Auditorium, Vicksburg

### The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe

February 13, 2009  
7:00pm  
MSU Riley Center, Meridian

# 2009

GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR  
MISSISSIPPI ARTS COMMISSION

GOVERNOR'S  
AWARDS FOR  
EXCELLENCE  
IN THE ARTS

Join the Mississippi Arts Commission on Thursday, February 26, 2009 at 1:00pm to celebrate the artistry of Mississippi! This grand event will be held at Galloway United Methodist Church and is free and open to the public.

The recipients we will honor this year are:

- Leadership in the Arts – University of Southern Mississippi Symphony Orchestra, Hattiesburg
- Arts in Education - WINGS Performing Arts Program of the Lynn Meadows Discovery Center, Gulfport
- Artistic Excellence in Visual Arts – Wolfe Studio, Jackson
- Artistic Excellence in Music – Cassandra Wilson, Jackson
- Literary Achievement – John Grisham, of Southaven
- Lifetime Achievement – Andrew Bucci, of Vicksburg

For more information, call 601/359-6030 or email

[sdobbs@arts.state.ms.us](mailto:sdobbs@arts.state.ms.us)

## MAC'S ANNUAL DAY AT THE CAPITOL SCHEDULED



The Mississippi Arts Commission will hold its annual **Day at the Capitol** on Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 12noon. During this tough economic time, it is more important than ever to advocate for the arts. Leading up to this event, we will be sending out advocacy tips, along with information on some additional opportunities for you to advocate for the arts! Stay tuned for more information. For questions, contact 601/359-6030.

**David Wilkie and  
Cowboy Celtic**  
February 14, 2009  
7:00pm  
First United Methodist  
Church, Gulfport

**Kathy Mattea & Marty  
Stuart**  
February, 15, 2009  
4:00pm  
MSU Riley Center,  
Meridian

**Magnolia Film Festival**  
February 19-21  
Times vary each day  
Starkville, MS

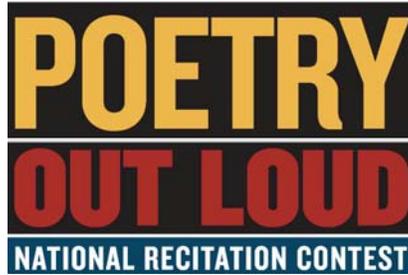
**Dance Theatre of  
Harlem**  
February 19, 2009  
8:00pm  
MSU Riley Center,  
Meridian

**Kids Mardi Gras Mask  
Making Workshop**  
February 20, 2009  
3:45pm  
Southern Cultural  
Heritage Academy Bldg,  
Vicksburg

**The United States  
Navy Band Concert**  
February 22, 2009  
2:00pm  
Corey Forum of Holmes  
Community College,  
Grenada

**Governor's Awards for  
Excellence in the Arts**  
February 26, 2009  
1:00pm  
Galloway United  
Methodist Church,  
Jackson

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



Poetry Out Loud was started by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation in 2005. This program helps students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about their literary heritage.

Regional competitions for the Poetry Out Loud National High School Recitation Program will be held as follows:

Northern Region – January 29 at 3:30pm  
the Powerhouse in Oxford

Central Region – February 3  
Clinton High School in Clinton

Southern Region – February 10 at 5:00pm  
Hattiesburg High School in Hattiesburg

Winners of these semi-final rounds (3 each) will be eligible to take part in a Student Workshop on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup> at New Stage Theatre. This workshop will help students prepare for the State Finals to be held on Friday, March 13 at Mississippi Public Broadcasting. If you are interested in more information about Poetry Out Loud, visit [www.arts.state.ms.us](http://www.arts.state.ms.us) or contact Kim Whitt at [kwhitt@arts.state.ms.us](mailto:kwhitt@arts.state.ms.us).



## MAC TO OFFER GRANT WRITING WORKSHOPS

The 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 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline. First-time applicants are encouraged to apply.

Thursday, February 5  
Tuesday, February 10

5:30pm at GumTree Museum, Tupelo  
5:30pm at Margaret Sherry Memorial Library,  
Biloxi

Thursday, February 19

10:45am at MSU Riley Center, Meridian

***Please Note: Location correction for William Grant Still  
Traveling Exhibit. From July 6 – July 31, the exhibit will  
be at Millsaps College in Jackson, not at the MSU Riley  
Center in Meridian as mentioned in the December issue of  
the smARTnews. For more information call 601/359-6031.***



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

January 25  
Larry Morrissey hosts with guest Herbert Wiley (Wiley & the Checkmates, Oxford Soul Music)

February 1  
Diane Williams hosts with playwright, Katrina Byrd as her guest

February 8  
Malcolm White hosts with MAC Board Chairman and Restaurateur, Robert St. John

February 15  
Larry Morrissey hosts with Chris Goertzen, fiddle contest researcher

**They always say time changes things, but you actually have to change them yourself.**

*- Andy Warhol*

## ARTS-RELATED JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Walter Anderson Museum of Art  
Executive Director  
Ocean Springs, MS

The Walter Anderson Museum of Art in Ocean Springs, Mississippi seeks applicants for the position of Executive Director. The Executive Director serves as the chief executive officer of the Museum and reports to a twenty-one member Board of Trustees. The Executive Director will ensure the continued success and quality of all exhibitions and programs, including national traveling exhibitions to meet the needs of a local, regional, and national audience.

Duties include serving as the principal spokesperson for the Museum; building partnerships within the community to enhance and expand the influence of the Museum; implementation of the long-range strategic plan; directing and evaluation exhibitions and programs; overseeing the fiscal management; preparing the annual operation and capital budgets; working with the Board to establish policies and procedures; implementing and managing a wide range of fundraising activities including capital campaigns and endowments; and hiring, supervising and mentoring staff.

Interested candidates should submit a detailed cover letter, resume, and contact information for at least three references to: Executive Director Search, Walter Anderson Museum of Art, 510 Washington Avenue, Ocean Springs, MS 39564 or via email to [board@walterandersonmuseum.org](mailto:board@walterandersonmuseum.org)



## NOW SHOWING AT MAC

The Mississippi Arts Commission is proud to feature work by this years artist fellowship recipients in the MAC Gallery, located in our offices at 501 North West Street, Suite 1101A. We invite you to come take a look at the outstanding work of these great Mississippi artists. This show will run through March. Artists included are David Lambert (work pictured), Salongo Lee, Philip Jackson, Bill Andrews, Josh Hailey, Lou Haney, Soon Ee Ngoh, Cecil Rimes, Amanda Sparks and Vicki Niolet