

July 2011

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Dear Friends,

Mississippi is the most artful, soulful, southern place on earth. Paradoxically, our people are diverse and democratic, yet fiercely fundamental and conservative. My good ole friend, Willie Morris, liked to say we are a “strange and beguiling place”. We are lush and wild, bountiful and rich in voice, place and story; complicated, as my New York friends like to say. Our history, both human and natural, like our culture, is unparalleled. We are native to America, we are Appalachian, African, Caribbean, Latin, European and redneck. We are jazz, up from belly of the blues. We are dance, southern fiction, food, gospel and ole time music, architecture and the visual arts. I don’t need to name names. We wrote the book.

Former Governor Bill Waller likes to talk about water, one of our greatest natural resources. He says we will have water when the rest of the country runs dry. We are surrounded by rivers, creeks, bayous, slews, marsh, oxbows, lakes and the Gulf of Mexico. When I was a child growing up in rural south Mississippi, I saw a map that connected my playground of Red Creek to the remarkable Pascagoula River system, which flowed to the Gulf and then out to the world. It was a “eureka moment” at an early age. Through a geography lesson, as a visual and experiential learner, I suddenly saw my place in the world and knew that my canoe stashed in the willows along the bank of Red Creek could, theoretically, take me to China. I later learned that my neighbor and world-renowned artist, Walter Anderson from Ocean Springs, was rowing his skiff to Horn Island and riding his bike to China.

There are many things I love about Mississippi. One is that we often ponder what we will cook for supper over lunch. We routinely reference the Civil War and Civil Rights in the same sentence. We have an abundance of dappled light. We are urban soul, gulf south, New Orleans and Memphis-centric, hillbilly and delta planter. We are hunter-gatherers, sports enthusiasts, free thinkers, artists and church-goers. We are philanthropic and philosophical, open minded and part closed society. I love the smell of salt air, autumn on the Natchez Trace, sunset over the delta, and any time spent on a porch. We have an abundance of farmer’s markets, we grow some of the best tomatoes and watermelons on the planet, and we know how to fry chicken and catfish. We continually confront and survive floods, hurricanes, and tornadoes and have fought off invaders and the boll weevil. We are resilient rascals, rebels and roustabouts, tenacious and quirky in our loyalty to family, the homeland, and our way of life. Why be normal? I’m simply crazy about this place; this place called Mississippi, the father of waters and a people of paradox and poetry.

One of the greatest joys of my job with MAC is that I get to practice “Creativity at Work,” which is the theme of this year’s Whole Schools Summer Institute being held next week at the MSU Riley Center in Meridian. If you are an educator, it is my hope that you plan to join us so you can incorporate arts-integrated instruction across the curriculum to help students be better prepared to find the career of their dreams.

My best,
Malcolm

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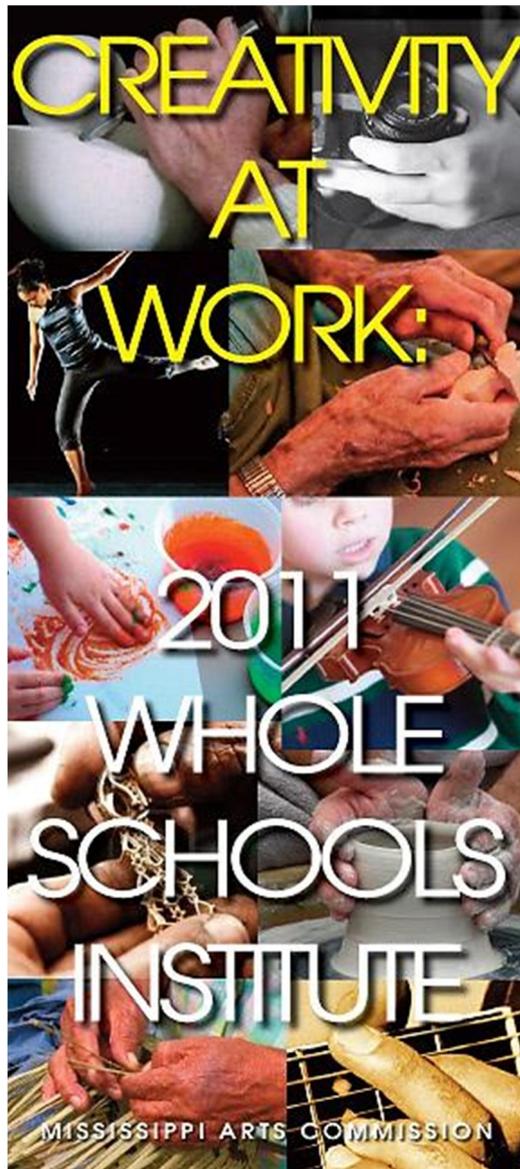
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2011 WHOLE SCHOOLS SUMMER INSTITUTE



The Whole Schools Summer Institute is known as the premier training ground for schools involved in education reform through the arts.

The Institute's highly professional training gives educators the inspiration, knowledge, and skills to lead their students toward the goal of reaching their full potential.

The Institute utilizes diverse educational strategies that reflect research findings regarding the value of verbal, kinesthetic, visual, musical, analytical, and emotional avenues for engaging the student's head, heart and hands in learning. Held at Meridian's MSU Riley Center, July 18-21, this professional development opportunity is open to anyone interested in learning in, through, and about the arts as well as how to integrate the arts into the total curriculum.

For more information visit,
www.mswholeschools.org.



MAC WELCOMES JODIE ENGLE WHOLE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE DIRECTOR



MAC would like to welcome the newest addition to the crew! Jodie Engle has joined the agency as the new Whole Schools Initiative Director. With a Bachelor of Arts degree from The Ohio State University in theatre, she has enjoyed acting, teaching and directing for over 20 years and has worked as a professional actor and teaching artist in Ohio and Mississippi. As a teaching artist, Jodie has spent time working in schools to integrate the arts in classrooms through model

lessons and teacher workshops with the Whole Schools Initiative, Mississippi Readers Association and the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education. This experience is what makes Jodie the perfect fit for her new position with MAC. We hope you will join us in welcoming her!

Calendar of Events

July

Miles, Pertini Photography and Fiber Art Exhibit

Through August 30, 2011
8am – 5pm
Mississippi Library
Commission
Jackson

Ceili, Irish Dance for Everyone

July 17, 2011
Fenian's Pub, Jackson

Tougaloo Art Colony

July 17-22, 2011
Tougaloo College

Sushi Workshop

July 19, 2011
5:30pm – 7:30pm
Southern Cultural
Heritage Academy
Bldg
Vicksburg, MS

Chamber Music Day Camp

July 25-29, 2011
Millsaps College
Jackson, MS

Coming in August

Bright Lights, Belhaven Nights

August 13, 2011
5:30 - 9:30
Historic Belhaven
Neighborhood
Jackson, MS

Dance Like the Stars
August 20, 2011
6:30pm – 11:00pm
BancorpSouth Arena
Tupelo, MS

Ceili, Irish Dance for Everyone

August 21, 2011
2:00 to 5:00 PM
Fenian's Pub
901 East Fortification St
Jackson, MS

MISSISSIPPI MASTER FIDDLER PUBLISHES BOOK



Master fiddle player Tim Avalon has recently published *Mississippi Echoes: Traditional Fiddle Music of Mississippi*, a collection of 80 Mississippi fiddle tunes from the 1920s and '30s. Nine years in the making, *Mississippi Echoes* is meant to introduce audiences to the old time music tradition of Mississippi. Avalon has transcribed each tune from the original recordings, providing fiddle enthusiasts with unprecedented access to Mississippi tunes. The books can be purchased from Avalon for \$25. Simply call and leave a message to order your copy today: 601-985-5260.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIP OF THE MONTH: CLEANING UP & GETTING READY

Given the flooding this spring and early summer affecting large areas in our nation, many artists are faced with the challenges of cleaning up and salvaging artworks, tools, and other items for themselves or for others affected by the floods. It doesn't take a breached levee to create some of these problems - an overflowing toilet or burst pipe can cause some of the same damage, albeit on a smaller scale.

And as though the floods, tornadoes, and wildfires aren't enough, hurricane season is here. In this month's tip, we remind you that it's never too late to plan for any kind of emergency from big to little. And you can do this by taking full advantage of CERF+'s Studio Protector: The Artist's Guide to Emergencies.



CALL FOR ART *MATERIAL WORLD: ART HOMAGE TO THE 80s* *JURIED EXHIBITION*

The Greater Jackson Arts Council is accepting entries until July 15th for *Material World: Art Homage to the 80s*. The exhibit will run from August 4-21, 2011. Artists whose work embodies the theme of the 80s are encouraged to submit their work. All media – painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, mixed media, and installation, are welcome. For more information visit contact Kimberly Jacobs at Kimberly@jacksonartscouncil.org or 601/960-1557.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS: ARTS EDUCATION GRANTS

<http://arts.endow.gov/Grants/apply/GAP12/ArtsEdAW.html>

Deadline: August 11, 2011. The National Endowment for the Arts encourages organizations to apply for its School-Based Projects "Art Works" Arts Education grant program. Activities may take place in or outside of the school building at any time of the day. This includes after-school and summer enrichment programs that are formally connected to school curricula. Projects must be based on a curriculum that aligns with national or state arts education standards and include assessment of participant learning.



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

July 17 –
Larry Morrissey hosts with Shelley Ritter of the Delta Blues Museum

July 24 –
Diane Williams hosts with visual artist, Tommy Reaves

July 31 –
Mary Margaret Miller hosts with music sensation and new MAC Roster artist, Jimbo Mathus

Art is the most intense mode of individualism that the world has known."

~Oscar Wilde

CALL FOR ARTISTS – THE CAREY 250 EXHIBITION

In honor of William Carey's 250th birthday, the University is putting together an art exhibit that will feature 250 pieces of artwork, all inspired by the accomplishments and career of the man known as the "father of modern missions." Artists are asked to create work related to themes from the life of William Carey. Deadline for entries is September 23, 2011. For more information visit <https://sites.google.com/site/carey250artexhibition/>

CONGRATULATIONS TO MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF ART



The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) recently announced the inaugural round of "Our Town" funding, totaling \$6.575 million in grants to 51 communities in 34 states that have created public-private partnerships to strengthen the arts while shaping the social, physical, and economic characters

of their neighborhoods, towns, cities, and regions. NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman made the announcement during an online press conference. The Mississippi Museum of Art received \$150,000 to support educational programs, multidisciplinary performances, and film screenings that will activate the new Art Garden at the Mississippi Museum of Art. A signature event, the first annual Downtown All Day Arts Festival, will be held to inaugurate the new space and expanded arts programming.

ARTS-RELATED JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Executive Director Delta Arts Alliance, Cleveland, Mississippi

Delta Arts Alliance, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization based in Cleveland, Mississippi, founded in 1999 and incorporated in 2003 with a vision to connect people of all ages in the Delta through the arts by providing access to educational and hands-on arts experiences. Programs provided by the DAA include the coordination of art instruction to over 2500 children in public schools throughout 8 counties in the Delta region, management of a 3000 square foot art gallery in Cleveland, Mississippi, production of workshops and other arts programming for the Delta community, and general promotion of all artistic endeavors of the Mississippi Delta Region.

The applicant should have a college degree and experience in business management. A background in the arts is also preferred, but not mandatory. Applicants should have experience in managing a staff, delegating tasks, and communications. He /She should also have a good understanding of technology, social media, and accounting software such as Quickbooks.

Applications may be mailed to: **Delta Arts Alliance, Inc., P. O. Box 763, Cleveland, MS 38732** or emailed to will@wiljax.com. Please include a resume as well as a letter illustrating why you feel you are a good fit for this position.