

June 2008

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"The trouble with America is that you think arts are an after dinner mint. No, no, no, arts are the bread and butter of life."

~an Italian visitor to a North Carolina musician

Dear Friends,

The heat of summer is upon us, but things are very cool here at MAC! I hope you will join us this Friday, June 20th, when we host an art show at 2:00pm featuring the work of Delta artist, Duff Durrough. Drop by to see Duff's work, hear him perform, and enjoy cookies and punch! Beginning July 1st, our gallery will feature the outstanding work of Jackson photographer, James Patterson.



On a recent trip to Greenwood, I was honored to attend the unveiling of a mural painted by students of Robin Whitfield, an outstanding artist from Grenada. Her students are participants in MAC's Core Arts Initiative, and Robin has done an outstanding job bringing their imaginations to life. The mural, entitled "Greenwood Natives," features leaves of Mississippi's native trees. Please be sure to take a look if you are visiting Greenwood. You can even see some of the kids' leaf paintings hanging on our wall at the MAC office which I eagerly brought to Jackson to share.

Recently, I was pleased to learn that the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee in Washington approved an increase in the National Endowment for the Arts annual budget. I would like to encourage you to write your members of Congress, asking for their support of this increase. An increase to the NEA budget means every state will receive greater funding.

Next month, our Whole School's Initiative annual Summer Institute will be held again at The University of Mississippi in Oxford and will feature an agenda filled with outstanding professional development opportunities for educators from across the country. We believe that the arts should be returned to the basic classroom curriculum and that by teaching the arts ACROSS the curriculum, Mississippi students of today have a greater chance to succeed in this extremely challenging world. If you need further information on the institute, visit the website at www.mswholeschools.org.

On August 8th, our second American Masterpieces program will begin at the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art in Laurel. "American Masters of the Mississippi Gulf Coast" will feature the works of George Ohr, Dusti Bonge, Walter Anderson and Richmond Barthe. This traveling exhibit will visit eight venues across Mississippi and hopes to show the artistic history of the creative Mississippi Gulf Coast region. Detailed information is included in this issue. I hope your summer is restful and filled with fun memories of family and friends. Come see us!

My best,
 Malcolm

Pictured: "Greenwood Natives" mural in Greenwood

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June 27, 2008 is the deadline
to submit a nomination for
2009 Governor's Awards for
Excellence in the Arts
(applications available at www.arts.state.ms.us)

Attention Arts Advocates

Voice your support for the increase in the National
Endowment for the Arts annual appropriation!

The House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, which sets the initial funding for the NEA, approved a \$15.3 million increase in its FY2009 spending bill. The bill will next go to the full committee and then to the House floor for final consideration. Please contact our Members of Congress, letting them know how important the arts are to you and what this national funding increase will mean to Mississippi. Visit <http://capwiz.com/artsusa/issues/alert/?alertid=11481401> for a quick and easy way to contact your members of Congress.



SOUTHERN ARTS FEDERATION Technical Assistance Grants

In a continuing effort to support and promote the arts in the South, the Southern Arts Federation (SAF), with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, offers a limited number of Technical Assistance grants for non-profit performing arts presenting organizations. YOU CAN MATCH THIS GRANT WITH A MINIGRANT FROM THE MISSISSIPPI ARTS COMMISSION. The maximum request is 50% of the consultant fee, up to \$2,500. New applicants are encouraged to contact [Nikki Estes](#), Program Director - Presenting and Touring, at 404-874-7244 ext. 16 to discuss eligibility prior to submitting an application. Visit www.southarts.org for more information.

The Mississippi Arts Commission deadline for a Minigrant to match the Southern Arts Federation Technical Assistance grant is November 1, 2008, with funding taking place within approximately 30 days. The funds can be used through to the end of the MAC fiscal year - June 30, 2009. For more information on the MAC Minigrant, please visit our website at: <http://www.arts.state.ms.us/grants/minigrants.php>

Calendar of Events - June

Fun Family Summer Fridays

Friday, June 27, 2008
9:30 AM and 11 AM
Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson, Miss

Coming in July

"Dinosaurs!" Exhibit

now - January 4, 2009
Call for Museum Hours
Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, Jackson

World War II Historic Poster Exhibit

July 4, 2008
10Am-4PM
Power House
Community Arts Center, Oxford

Building Creative Futures Workshop

July 6-12
all day
UWF Department of Art, Pensacola, FL

Willy Wonka, Jr.

July 10-13, 2008
7:30 p.m. and 2 p.m.
on Sunday
New Stage Theatre, Jackson

Indie Film: We Are Wizards

July 11, 2008
7:00p.m.
The Power House
Community Arts Center, Oxford

USA International Ballet Competition Reunion Gala 2008

Saturday, July 12, 2008
7:30 p.m.
Thalia Mara Hall, Jackson

An Evening with Nevada Barr

July 15, 2008
7:00 p.m.
Southern Cultural Heritage Auditorium, Vicksburg

LEONTYNE PRICE CHOSEN RECIPIENT OF NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS OPERA HONORS



One of the greatest lyric sopranos of all time, Laurel, Mississippi native Leontyne Price, was recently named one of the first recipients of the National Endowment for the Arts Opera Honors...the highest award our nation bestows in opera. The award goes to luminaries who have made extraordinary contributions to opera in the United States. Her 1961 performance as Leonora in Verdi's *Il Trovatore* at the Metropolitan Opera landed her on the cover of *Time* magazine. An advocate for human rights, Ms. Price was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1964. Her artistic awards include the National Medal of the Arts in 1985, nineteen Grammys and three Emmys. Ms. Price was the recipient of a Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts in 1988, the first year the program began.

AMERICAN MASTERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST

The Mississippi Arts Commission is proud to announce the 2nd program in a series highlighting the cultural contributions of historic Mississippians in art, music, literature, theatre and dance. "American Masters of the Mississippi Gulf Coast: George Ohr, Dusti Bonge, Walter Anderson, Richmond Barthe" is a travelling exhibit featuring the work of these outstanding artists and seeks to illuminate the intersection of their lives. Further, the exhibit will examine the history of the abundantly creative region of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The Mississippi Arts Commission and the Mississippi State University Department of Art are publishing a 104 page, full-color hardback catalog on the lives of these artists and the artwork featured in the exhibition. The catalog will be circulated by the University Press of Mississippi. The exhibit is underwritten by the National Endowment for the Arts and is part of the American Masterpieces Initiative, created to acquaint Americans with the best of their artistic and cultural heritage.

The exhibit will be held in the following locations:

August 8 - September 21, 2008 | Lauren Rogers Museum of Art

October 2 - October 30, 2008 | MSU Dept. of Art Gallery

November 7 - December 19, 2008 | E.E. Bass Cultural Center

December 30 - February 26, 2009 | GumTree Museum of Art

April 11 - July 12, 2009 | Mississippi Museum of Art

July 25 - August 29 2009 | Meridian Museum of Art

September 10 - October 15, 2009 | USM Museum of Art

November 6, 2009 - January 10, 2010 | Walter Anderson Museum of Art

ATTENTION TEACHERS!!!
WHOLE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE'S
SUMMER INSTITUTE



This year we will be "Celebrating Our Creative Spirit" as the Institute marks its 10th anniversary.

University of Mississippi – July 20-24, 2008

Visit www.mswholeschools for more information.

MAAE Artists' Training Workshop will be held during the Whole School's Summer Institute. Deadline to register is June 20, 2008. For more information visit

www.msarts.alliance.com.



23rd ANNUAL
TENNESSEE WILLIAMS/NEW ORLEANS
LITERARY FESTIVAL • MARCH 25-29, 2009

The Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival has announced its first annual fiction writing contest. Entries must be no longer than 7,000 words and submitted no later than November 15, 2008. Grand prize is \$1,500 plus travel expenses to the festival. Visit www.tennesseewilliams.net for more information.

ALEDA SHIRLEY 1955-2008

The Mississippi Arts Commission was saddened to learn of the recent passing of the brilliant Mississippi writer, Aleda Shirley. Aleda was a prize-winning poet and her work appeared regularly in some of the best literary publications in the country. Her books of poems include *Chinese Architecture*, awarded the Poetry Society of America's Norma Farber Book Award in 1987; *Long Distance* (1996); and *Dark Familiar*, published in 2006. Aleda not only received a fellowship from the Mississippi Arts Commission, but also from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Kentucky Arts Council. She designed and facilitated MAC's AllWrite! Initiative, a program that addressed adult literacy. Her quick wit and great intellect made her a pleasure to talk with and everyone at the Mississippi Arts Commission will miss her terribly.

Footloose: The Musical

July 15, 17-20
7PM (Tue, Thu-Sat),
2PM (Sun)
The Dixie Theatre,
Ripley

Mississippi Arts Commission's Whole Schools Initiative Summer Institute

July 20-24, 2008
daily that week
University of Mississippi

Fun Family Summer Fridays

Friday, July 25, 2008
9:30 AM and 11 AM
Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson

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

Listen to MAC's
"Mississippi Arts
Hour" every
Thursday at
5:00pm and
Sundays at
8:00pm on
Jackson's WLEZ -
103.7FM

June 5
Malcolm White is
host with guest,
Susan Womack,
Parents for Public
School of Jackson

June 12
Larry Morrissey is
host with guest,
fiddler Bill Rogers

June 19
Diane Williams to
host with guests
from the Madison
County Library and
their youth
storytelling group

June 26
Judi Pulliam to host
with guest, artist
Lea Barton

Podcasts are now
available of MAC's
Mississippi Arts Hour
on WLEZ.
Visit the MAC website
to listen or for more
information on how to
download the podcasts
to your MP3 player
from iTunes.

PRACTICE WHAT
YOU KNOW, AND
IT WILL HELP TO
MAKE CLEAR
WHAT NOW YOU
DO NOT KNOW.

~Rembrandt van Rijn



CALL TO ARTISTS

Live and Let Draw: James
Bond Invitational

In celebration of the 007-themed "Shaken not Stirred: 3rd Annual Storytellers Ball," the Greater Jackson Arts Council is sponsoring "Live and Let Draw: James Bond Invitational." They hope to capture an artistic mood befitting the British secret agent! A first prize of \$1,000 will be awarded and the winner will be featured in an issue of the *Jackson Free Press* and *VIP Jackson Magazine*. The deadline is June 30th and there is a \$10 entry fee. For more information visit www.jacksonartscouncil.org.

THE CREATIVE ECONOMY

A recent article in *The New York Times* outlines some significant data regarding the arts and the U.S. economy. In 2005 nearly two million Americans said their primary employment was in jobs the census defines as artists' occupations. To read the article in its entirety, visit <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/06/12/arts/12nea.html>.

A recent "Marketplace" story on National Public Radio also featured a segment on the impact arts and culture has on today's workforce. Listen by visiting.....
<http://marketplace.publicradio.org/display/web/2008/06/12/artists/>

ARTS-RELATED JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Mississippi Cultural Crossroads Executive Director

Mississippi Cultural Crossroads, an award winning community-based arts organization and sponsor of nationally renowned Crossroads Quilters based in historic Port Gibson, Mississippi, is seeking qualified candidates for Executive Director. Position requires leadership, fundraising, program coordination, grant writing, and general staff and facility management. Annual budgets for the past three years have ranged from \$120,000 to \$150,000. Additional organizational information and job description available at www.mscculturalcrossroads.org. Salary based on experience. Applicants should send resume with cover letter to MCC, 507 Market Street, Port Gibson, MS 39150. The deadline for submissions is June 30, 2008 or until the position is filled.

THE MISSISSIPPI ARTS COMMISSION
CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF SUPPORTING
MISSISSIPPI'S CREATIVE SPIRIT!