

June 2010

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On Being Prepared-

As the America's Gulf South braces itself for the inevitable environmental and economic devastation of the BP oil spill, we need to be mindful of our fellow Mississippi Gulf Coast citizens who are reeling from yet another insult-to-injury in the wake of Hurricane Katrina recovery. Many of our coast communities are just now getting basic infrastructure and services back and are now facing this black plague that is polluting our Gulf of Mexico with millions of gallons of oil each passing day. We will forgo the assignment of fault to the experts, but hope to focus our energy on a timely cleanup and recovery from this latest assault to our beloved, creative coast.

We at MAC are collaborating with regional as well as national partners to prepare artists and non-profit arts institutions for this kind of business interruption.

Readiness, response and recovery in the arts are now a national conversation. "ArtsReady" is a forthcoming on-line continuity planning tool to make readiness planning clear and easy. Using "ArtsReady," you will be able to assess your readiness "fitness level", be guided to prioritize your planning steps, link to resources and assistance, and have a place to store your key documents and files. Being "ArtsReady" means preparedness, readiness, and business continuity for you and your arts organization. Readiness planning means that no matter what happens **today**, you can do **tomorrow**, what you were doing **yesterday**. Visit the link <http://www.artsready.org> for more information on being ArtsReady.

So as we face yet another challenge from a destructive power greater than ourselves, we are reminded of the fragile balance of both our environment and our quest to push the envelope to unearth energy sources to drive us ever faster and faster. In this time of uncertainty and insecurity, we need to be reminded of the resilience and comfort of our arts and culture, the role of creativity and the joy of celebration it brings amidst these tumultuous headlines of doom and gloom. To be certain, this event is monumental and will be long-felt. This spill disaster will greatly impact our environment and our economy. It will impact many coast artists and all coast cultural non-profits, and life as we know it. Please remember coast-based artists and arts institutions who struggle to maintain and survive in the face of this most recent devastation. It is a critical component of any successful for-profit or non-profit business plan to be prepared for the unexpected and to have a business continuity plan. To view the Mississippi Arts Commission's plan, go to <http://www.arts.state.ms.us/resources/EmergencyPreparedness2.php>

My best,
Malcolm

In order to assess the status of our creative economy on the coast due to the oil spill, please take a moment to complete the following survey.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LJ8RJBM>



MAC Staff

Malcolm White
Executive Director

Lee Powell
Deputy Director

Susan Dobbs
Public Relations
Director

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

Candice Thomley
Executive Assistant

Kim Whitt
Arts Education
Director

Diane Williams
Arts Industry Director

Allison Winstead
Arts-Based
Community
Development Director

MAC IS MAKING MOVIES!



MAC staff members, Mary Margaret Miller, Susan Dobbs and Diane Williams, recently participated in a documentary filmmaking class through [Barefoot](#)

[Workshops](#). Also participating were staff members from Mississippi Development Authority's Film and Tourism offices and the Mississippi Humanities Council.

The group chose to focus on local unique dining spots as the subject of their films. The three subjects were Campbell's Bakery, Peaches Restaurant and Bill's Greek Tavern. MAC's Public Relations Director, Susan Dobbs, and Heritage Director, Mary Margaret Miller, filmed the piece on Campbell's Bakery, a staple in Fondren for over 40 years.



This will be an outstanding new tool for MAC to better tell the story of this agency and our constituents.

Click the link to watch!

<http://www.vimeo.com/12596921>

MISSISSIPPI FILM OFFICE UPDATE: *THE HELP*

The Mississippi Film Office is looking for costumes for the upcoming film production of *The Help*. Clothing from the late 1950's to early 1960's is needed to use in the movie. If you have any women's, men's or children's clothing from that period and are interested in selling it, please contact Grace at graciegirl09@comcast.net.

Also, identical twin children are being cast for several parts in the movie. Visit <http://www.visitmississippi.org/film/> to find out what parts are available and for other casting opportunities.

2010 Summer Institute
Online Registration

The MSU Riley Center
Meridian, Mississippi
July 18-22, 2010

Calendar of Events – June

OSF presents "The King and I"

June 24, 26, 27, 2010
8pm - 6/24 6/26 - 2pm
6/27

Ford Center Main Hall -
University, MS

USA International Ballet Competition

Through June 27, 2010
Thalia Mara
Visit website for details

The Art of Dance in Craft

Through June 30
MS Craft Center

"A Portrait of Jackson Women"

Through June 30
Arts Center of MS

Children's Art Exhibit

Through June 30
B.B. King Museum

Broadway Jr. Summer Camp

June 21-July 18
New Stage Theatre

To have your event listed on MAC's calendar, visit the calendar section of our website.

MISSISSIPPI THEATRE ASSOCIATION AND MISSISSIPPI ARTS COMMISSION TO HOLD TOWN HALL MEETING



As part of a statewide effort to bring theatres, performers and arts supporters together, the Mississippi Theatre Association (MTA) and the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) will be hosting a town hall meeting in Meridian, MS on July 24, 2010. The meeting will be held at MSU – Riley Center for the Performing

Arts. All theatre and arts enthusiasts from all types of theatres, including community theatres, schools, colleges and universities, and home school programs, are encouraged to attend the meeting to learn more about the services offered by the two organizations. We also want to hear how we are doing and how we can better serve your community, schools and organizations.

The mission of MTA is to foster appreciation of and participation in youth, college, community, high school, professional, and university theatre in Mississippi by sponsoring festivals, workshops, and retreats; communicating with members and the public; acting as an advocate to government agencies, business, and the public; recognizing excellence in performance and production; and sanctioning representatives to regional festivals. For more information, contact Diane Williams at dwilliams@arts.state.ms.us.

MAC DEPUTY DIRECTOR BECOMES "CERTIFIED PUBLIC MANAGER"



After much hard work and dedication, Lee Powell, MAC's Deputy Director, earned her Certified Public Manager designation through the State of Mississippi. This is a training program built on the philosophy that the study of management can impact certain skills, attitudes, and behaviors which characterize successful management. It supports the new belief that long-term productivity and effectiveness require careful attention to material, financial, and human resources. Congratulations, Lee!!!

Lee Powell receives her certificate at the Old Capitol.

Photo by Diane Williams



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 visit mpbonline.org. The show can also be heard on MAC's website and through Apple's iTunes

Upcoming shows

June 27

Mary Margaret Miller hosts with photographer, Ron Blaylock

July 4

Malcolm White hosts with Belhaven artists

July 11

Larry Morrissey hosts with author, John Brandon

July 18

Diane Williams hosts with author, Steve Yates

It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see.

Henry David Thoreau

"JIM WEATHERLY DAY" PONTOTOC, MISSISSIPPI FRIDAY & SATURDAY, AUGUST 6TH-7TH 2010

Mississippi singer/songwriter, Jim Weatherly, will be recognized in his hometown of Pontotoc, Mississippi on Friday, August 6th-Saturday, August 7th, during Pontotoc's Annual Bodock Festival, in honor of his outstanding fifty-year career.

For More Info: Contact Charles Pittman, Mississippi Governor's Office, cpittman@governor.state.ms.us or Ellen Russell, Executive Director of the Pontotoc Area Chamber of Commerce at ellenmsa@Pontotocchamber.com or by calling 662-489-5042.

CONGRATULATIONS TO VSA MISSISSIPPI!

VSA Mississippi is a statewide nonprofit organization that promotes and provides arts opportunities for people with disabilities. Recently, the organization received the 2010 Award of Excellence for Excellence in Organizational Management. The VSA Awards of Excellence are presented annually by VSA International to an Affiliate that has excelled during the year in one of the following areas: educational programming, professional development, cultural access and inclusive arts services, public awareness and outreach, or organizational management. Great job, VSA MS!

Also, VSA artist, Sheri C. Marshall, who is also on MAC's artist roster, recently represented Mississippi as part of "Revealing Culture," a groundbreaking exhibition of contemporary art by artists with disabilities held during the 2010 International VSA Festival in Washington D.C. In addition to Marshall, other artists from Mississippi who participated were Tom Harmon, VSA MS Senior Artist in Residence, Cynthia Newland, Chair, Belhaven University Dance Department, and Vallye Russell, a student at Brandon Middle School.

AMERICAN'S WITH DISABILITIES ACT 35 YEAR REUNION

Mississippians will be celebrating access and independence for people with disabilities on July 24th in Jackson. Health and service organizations and individuals will be coming together to bring attention to the Americans with Disabilities Act. The celebration will begin at Jackson's City Hall at 12:00 Noon with the arrival of The Journey of Hope. The Journey of Hope is a group of Pi Kappa Phi college students from across America who cycle cross-country each summer to raise funds and awareness for people with disabilities. The afternoon event will continue with a block party on Vine Street including guest speakers, food, entertainment (including Mississippi Arts Commission Roster Artist, Jessie Robinson). Please join in the celebration! For more information, contact Diane Williams at dwilliams@arts.state.ms.us.