

June 2011

**Mississippi Arts
Commission
Board of
Commissioners**

Carol Puckett
Chairman

Stephanie PUNCHES
1st Vice-Chairman

Myrna Colley-Lee
2nd Vice-Chairman

Donna Barksdale

Courtney Blossman

Barbara Brunini

Lawrence Farrington

Kris Gianakos

Sam Haskell

Beverly Herring

Nan Sanders

David Trigiani

Nancy Yates

“We shape our buildings, and afterward they shape us.” Winston Churchill

Dear Friends,

Neither creativity nor economics are new to our thinking, but the nature and extent of the relationship between them and how they combine to create extraordinary value and wealth is an innovative new concept.

More and more communities around Mississippi are striving to make the arts and creativity a part of their plans for development.

An important part of these plans is having a physical space where arts activities can take place. In many communities, arts groups are playing an important role in redeveloping historic districts by utilizing existing buildings, therefore contributing to the economic development of their area. Community members like to see the historic theater or other older commercial buildings put back into active use. However, many of these buildings need substantial repairs or upgrades in order for them to be fully utilized by the arts organization.

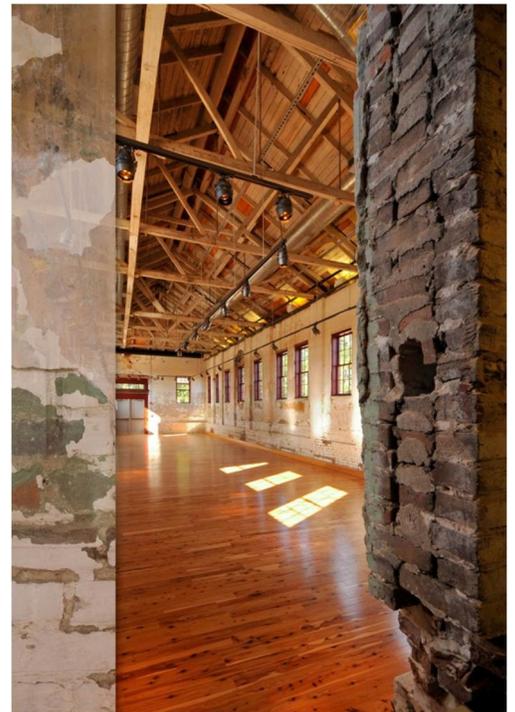
The Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) has long recognized this need and has worked tirelessly to give the arts an address in communities across the state. The Building Fund for the Arts (BFA), an initiative administered by MAC, was launched ten years ago as a special grant

program focused on assisting arts groups and local governments with making repairs and upgrades to arts facilities. From 2001 through 2007, the Mississippi Legislature approved \$19.2 million in bond funds that have been distributed through this competitive grant program to 132 projects around the state.

These grants have helped to transform spaces throughout Mississippi. BFA has supported several recent high profile projects, including the B.B. King Museum in Indianola, the Mississippi Children’s Museum in Jackson, and the Ohr-O’Keefe Museum of Art in Biloxi. The grant program has also been an important component of many smaller-scale projects that have nonetheless made a deep impact in their communities, such as the restoration of the Haven Theater in Brookhaven, repairs to the Triangle Cultural Center in Yazoo City, and the beginning of the conversion of a former hardware store into an arts space in downtown Booneville.

While BFA has funded big and small projects, the program required each grantee to make a substantial investment in the project. Applying for this grant required strong and strategic area partnerships. Local businesses, foundations, and supportive members of these communities have worked diligently and have invested their time and funding in their cultural infrastructure. They were required to raise matching funds, insuring that there was significant local support for each project, not just a “good idea” that was only shared by a few people. The result of these collaborations is the construction of new cultural facilities and the restoration of old buildings.

Continued on next page.....



MAC Staff

Malcolm White
Executive Director

Lee Powell
Deputy Director

Susan Dobbs
Public Relations
Director

Teresa Haygood
Executive Assistant

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

Kim Whitt
Arts Education
Director

Diane Williams
Arts Industry Director

Allison Winstead
Arts-Based
Community
Development Director

These structures provide a location for community theatre, after-school art classes for children, and other varied cultural activities

The BFA grant program is the quintessential example of the creative economy at work. The resulting partnerships and collaborations in these communities generate new wealth, are a source of economic growth, and stimulate jobs. The Mississippi Arts Commission realizes and celebrates the significance of revitalization, restoration, and the value of the arts having a home in each Mississippi community through bricks and mortar.

Currently, the BFA initiative is unfunded, and the remaining active grantees are working to complete their projects statewide. The MAC is steadfast in our belief that this program has helped to improve the state's arts infrastructure, economic development, and the innovative workforce. All the while, the initiative continues to put into place new or improved facilities that will host and showcase the next generations of creative Mississippians in the spirit of Leontyne Price, William Faulkner, Natasha Tretheway, Elvis Presley, Thalia Mara, William Grant Still and Robert Johnson.

My best,
Malcolm

Photo above of the B.B. King Museum and Interpretive Center, Indianola, MS
by Tom Joynt



Performing Arts Exchange

South Arts annually presents the Performing Arts Exchange Conference. It is an opportunity where both veterans and newcomers (artists, managers, and presenters) in the field of performing arts presenters can share ideas, gain skills, expand professional networks, and build individual and organizational capacity. The Performing Arts Exchange (PAE) is the primary marketplace and forum for performing arts presenters and touring artists to come together and share ideas, learn and get information. Professional development sessions at PAE support the presenting and touring field with practical management, leadership and career training. During PAE, workshop sessions focus on three areas: Fundamentals, Skills, and Issues & Ideas.

Registration for the Performing Arts Exchange is all-inclusive. Registration includes all conference events: Opening Reception, professional development workshops (PD@PAE), Keynote and Award Luncheons, Showcases, Marketplace, and the Closing Party.

The conference will be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana this year, and this is a good opportunity to meet with other Mississippi presenters and the Mississippi Arts Commission to discuss block booking, to participate in workshops that will help you build capacity, and to network with other Mississippi presenters. For more information about the opportunity to network with other Mississippi presenters, contact Diane Williams, Mississippi Arts Commission, Arts Industry program director.

Early bird registration ends July 22. Information on registering for this conference can be found on the SouthArts website under Conference:

www.southarts.org

Calendar of Events

June

Bentonia Blues Festival

June 18, 2011
9:00am -12midnight
Blue Front Café
Bentonia, MS

Son House Photo Exhibit (by Dick Waterman)

June 23, 2011
(opening reception 5pm)
Delta Blues Museum
Clarksdale, MS

William Dunlap: Look at It...Think About It

June 27 -Dec 4, 2011
IP Casino Resort
Exhibitions Gallery

Brian Nettles: Design in Three Dimensions

June 25-Nov 27, 2011
MS Sound Welcome Center

Coming in July

Annual Anniversary

July 10, 2011
3:00pm
Greenville, MS

Guys and Dolls Jr.

July 14, 2011
7:00pm
New Stage Theatre

Ceili, Irish Dance for Everyone

July 17, 2011
Fenian's Pub, Jackson

Tougaloo Art Colony

July 17-22, 2011
Tougaloo College

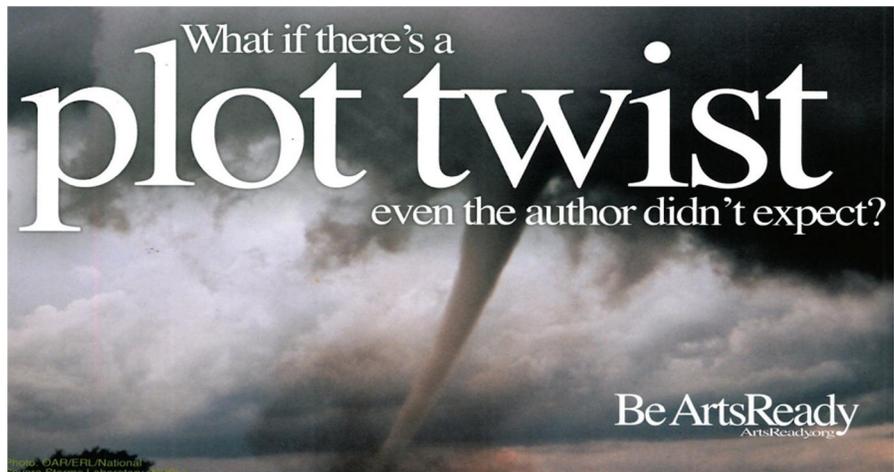


ATTENTION EDUCATORS!!!!

Mark your calendars now for the 2011 Whole Schools Summer Institute!

The Institute will be held at the MSU Riley Center in Meridian July 18-21, 2011.

The theme of this year's event is "Creativity at Work!" Register online at www.mswholeschools.org



PLAN FOR "WHAT IF" INSTEAD OF "WHY ME."

The fire. The flood. The storm. The broken pipes. The break-in. The disaster. The unforeseen appears too often. The unexpected, once-in-a-lifetime, won't-happen-to-me, I-don't-want-to-talk-about-it-possibility, happens. Now is the time to be ArtsReady. Being ArtsReady means preparedness, readiness and business continuity for you and your arts organization. South Arts has developed the ArtsReady web-based resources and guides for readiness and planning. www.artsready.org. For more information contact MAC's Director of Special Initiatives, Sallye Killebrew at skillebrew@arts.state.ms.us.



While in Washington DC to perform at the Homegrown Concert Series at the Library of Congress and the Kennedy Center, Ben Payton and the Thundering Harps stopped in for a visit with Senator Roger Wicker.

Pictured from left to right are Ben Payton, MAC's Mary Margaret Miller, Sen. Roger Wicker, Kendrick Hart, Cyndi Clark and Steve Chester.



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

June 19th

Larry Morrissey will host with Roger Stolle, owner of Cat Head Folk Art Store in Clarksdale

June 26th

Diane Williams to host with Sade Turnipseed, community arts entrepreneur in Indianola

July 3rd

Mary Margaret Miller to host with Al White, organizer of the Grassroots Blues Festival

July 10th

Malcolm White to host with Emily Noble of MS Writing & Thinking Institute/Rural Voices Radio

Man will begin to recover the moment he takes art as seriously as physics, chemistry or money.

~Ernst Levy



NOW SHOWING IN THE MAC GALLERY!

Photographer Stephen Little's work has been featured in *Portico* of Jackson's "Best of 2006", *Jackson Free Press*, *The Clarion-Ledger*, *File Magazine*, *Ten Most Endangered Historic Places in Mississippi*, and various art events around the state. In 2010, his "Eddie Cotton" photograph was published in "Mississippians" coffee table book. View more of his work at <http://stephenlittlephoto.com/> The gallery reception for Stephen will be held on Thursday, June 23rd, from 2pm to 4pm in our offices on the 11th floor of the Woolfolk State Office Building.

The next exhibit in the MAC gallery will feature artists in the 2011 Folk Art Apprenticeship Program. Both Master Artists and Apprentices will have their artistry on exhibit during the months of June and July. The Folk Art Apprenticeship program helps to assure the survival, development and continued evolution of community-based traditional art forms found throughout Mississippi. The program allows master traditional artists to pass along their unique skills to promising novice artists that work in their art form. Traditions on display will include quilting and blacksmithing. The reception will be held on August 4, from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. and will also feature Master artists and Apprentices playing old time string music and performing Irish dances.

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.