



June 2014

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Dear Friends,

Along with the changing of the seasons in Mississippi, there are many changes here at MAC. I am delighted to announce that we are now fully staffed and excited to get to the important work at hand.

Our new staff members bring many years of experience in various fields of the arts and arts education. Along with our seasoned staff members, the new MAC team is a dynamic group of individuals who are ready and eager to serve all of the citizens of Mississippi.

With this highly qualified staff, it is my vision to lead the Mississippi Arts Commission to becoming the premier state arts agency across the country by connecting, facilitating, nurturing, supporting, and providing cutting edge arts and arts education programming that is accessible to every community. Our team's overarching goals are to:

- foster creativity
- expand arts participation across the state
- promote greater development of the state's creative economy

Soon, we will announce the recipients of Arts Commission's FY2015 grant awards. This group represents an outstanding listing of fellowship winners, as well as minigrant, project and operating grant recipients representing most of our 82 counties. When the announcement is made on July 1, we encourage you to extend your congratulations to those who have been awarded funding. It allows artists and groups to continue the work they do in your community. MAC is honored to be a part of this important work. It is inspiring to see the tremendous role the arts play in establishing vibrant, creative places in Mississippi.

As always, please let us know if we may be of any assistance to you or your community. Our agency is here to serve all of the citizens of Mississippi!

My best,

Tom



Staff

Dr. Tom Pearson
Executive Director

Larry Morrissey
Deputy Director

Christopher Brooks
Fiscal Officer

Jodie Engle
Whole Schools
Director

Turry Flucker
Arts Industry Director

Jennifer Jameson
Folk & Traditional
Arts Director

Susan Liles
Public Relations
Director

Shirley Smith
Systems
Administrator

Charlotte Smelser
Arts Education
Director

Connie Souto
Learman
Special Initiatives
Director/ADA
Coordinator

Mara Stuart
Executive Assistant

Diane Williams
Director of Grants

Allison Winstead
Director of
Community &
Economic
Development

Meet the Staff

MAC hopes you will join us as we welcome the newest members of the team!

Charlotte Smelser

Arts Education Director



Prior to coming to the Mississippi Arts Commission, Mrs. Smelser served as Director of Education at the Texarkana Regional Arts & Humanities Council in Texarkana, Texas. Working closely with public and private school administrators and teachers, she developed a comprehensive program of professional development in arts integrated teaching strategies. Under her leadership, strong collaborations were developed, resulting in a cadre of educators willing to lead others in this specialized approach to educational excellence.

csmelser@arts.ms.gov

Jennifer Jameson

Folk & Traditional Arts Director

Jennifer has an M.A. in public sector folk studies from Western Kentucky University and a B.A. in folklore and ethnomusicology from Indiana University.

Jennifer has worked with museums, archives, festivals, and arts and cultural organizations on the federal, state, and local level, including positions at the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, Traditional Arts Indiana, the Kentucky Folklife Program, the Tennessee Folklife Society, and the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum.

jjameson@arts.ms.gov



Turry Flucker

Arts Industry Director



Turry served for nine years as Branch Director at the Louisiana State Museum, directing the Louisiana Civil Rights Museum Project. While directing this statewide effort, Flucker managed the 5,000 square foot traveling exhibition called *RACE: Are We So Different?*, a project developed by the American Anthropological Association in collaboration with the Science Museum of Minnesota. In November, 2010, Flucker brought together Civil Rights organizations in New Orleans along with the United States Marshals Museum in Fort Smith, Arkansas to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of New Orleans Public Schools. tflucker@arts.ms.gov

Christopher Brooks Fiscal Officer

Christopher is a native of Starkville, Mississippi and is a 2003 graduate of Starkville High School. He went on to get his Bachelor's Degree from The University of Mississippi and graduated in 2008. He worked for the City of Starkville and moved to Jackson in March 2012 to pursue more challenging opportunities. He became the Fiscal Officer for MAC in May 2014. He has a passion for fine arts, jazz, live music, and poetry.

cbrooks@arts.ms.gov



Connie Souto Learman Special Initiatives Director/ ADA Coordinator

Connie coordinates all of MAC's special programs and initiatives, and plans and executes Art Day at the Capitol. She is also the accessibility coordinator for the agency. Originally from Brazil, Connie Souto Learman comes to MAC with a wealth of international travel and culture, and the ability to fluently speak three languages, English, Spanish, and Portuguese. Souto Learman worked actively with art festivals and cultural organizations, as well as art fundraising events inside and outside the United States.

csoutolearman@arts.ms.gov



Governor's Arts Awards

Deadline for Nominations for 2015

June 27, 2014

Don't miss this opportunity to nominate an outstanding artist or arts organization from your community to be honored in 2015. Contact Susan Liles at MAC with questions, sliles@arts.ms.gov or visit www.arts.ms.gov and follow the link on the homepage.

Calendar of events June

MCLS Summer Reading Program

June 3 - July 25

See www.mcls.ms for details

Canton, Camden, Flora, Madison, and Ridgeland

Mississippi Summer Arts Institute: Arts Camp

June 8-21, 2014

All Day

Delta State University-Cleveland, MS

"Walking in their Footsteps"

June 13

6:00pm-7:30pm

Smith Robertson Museum & Cultural Center
Jackson

Impossible Landscapes: Drawings by Adrienne Brown-David

Through July 1

City Grocery
Oxford, MS

July

MDBHF Poster Contest – "Call to Artists"

July 7

5:00pm

Greenville, MS

Mississippi Summer Arts Institute: PLUS Camp

July 14-19

8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m.
daily

Delta State University
Cleveland, MS

Calendar of events continued

MAC's Whole Schools Summer Institute

July 13-17
MSU Riley Center
Meridian, MS

"Gone But Not Forgotten" Exhibit Opening

July 17, 2014
5:00-7:00 P.M.
Delta Blues Museum
Clarksdale, MS

Ritz on the River

Thursday, July 24
8:00pm
Vicksburg Convention Center
Vicksburg, MS

Be sure to visit MAC's website at:
<http://www.arts.ms.gov/calendar/index.php>
to list your upcoming event!



The MAC Gallery

The MAC Gallery on the 11th floor of the Woolfolk State Office Building is currently filled with the amazing work of MAC's Artist Roster visual artists. Included in the show are pieces by the late Pat Walker. You owe it to yourself to stop in to see this show. A public reception will be held on Thursday, July 10th at 2:00pm

For more information, contact Mara Stuart at mstuart@arts.ms.gov.



Folk & Traditional Arts Grants at Work!

Deborah Giles of Pearl St. AME Community Development Corps in Jackson received a Folk & Traditional Arts Project Grant from MAC, and hired Master Quilter Rhonda Blasingame to instruct regular quilting workshops for members of the Pearl St. AME CDC community. The beginning quilters are making their own quilts, as well as working on group-made quilts that are then gifted to local social service agencies serving those in need. The project has officially ended, yet they have continued to meet every Wednesday to quilt. It's great to see MAC grant dollars in action, and put to use not only for artistic instruction and encouragement, but also for immediate community needs.



After receiving a Folk and Traditional Arts Fellowship from MAC in 2014, Bessie Johnson created the Burnt Matchstick Art Project, to “promote the creative power in people with disabilities.” She spent time leading workshops with children at K-12 public schools who have developmental or physical disabilities and with adults in nursing homes, passing on the craft to stimulate these groups “physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually.” More information can be found on her website:

<http://bessiespndesigns.com/>

Photo: Bessie is pictured with 2nd graders from West Clay County Elementary School.

Congratulations to Mississippi Arts Organizations!

Our state is filled with dedicated, hard-working arts groups that are making a huge difference in their communities! MAC would like to congratulate two organizations this month for national recognition they recently received.

The Delta Blues Museum Arts and Education Program is a finalist in the 2014 National Arts & Humanities Youth Program Awards. Programs that receive the award exemplify how arts and humanities programs outside of the regular school day enrich the lives of young people throughout the country by teaching new skills, nurturing creativity, and building self-confidence. The recipients will visit the White House to accept their award from First Lady Michelle Obama.

Also, the National Endowment for the Arts recently announced that 77 nonprofits will receive grants to host The Big Read project in their community. This program is designed to revitalize the role of reading in America. We are thrilled that the Columbus Arts Council was selected to participate in the program and they will develop unique programming that will focus on Thornton Wilder’s *The Bridge of San Luis Rey*.

Congratulations to both of these outstanding Mississippi arts organizations!



The Mississippi Arts Hour can be heard on Sundays 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 iTunes.

June 14
Allison hosts the “Creative Mississippi” edition with Lhay Browning Thriffley

June 22
Tom hosts with musician, Webb Wilder

June 29
Larry hosts with photographer, Bruce West

July 6
Jodie hosts with Tom Booth from Tupelo Community Theatre

New shows are posted to our Facebook page each Friday! “Like” us to stay up to date.

Mississippi Arts Commission

In 1968, the Mississippi Legislature created the Mississippi Arts Commission as the official grants-making and service agency for the arts. Since then, the Commission has broadened its role as an active supporter and promoter of the arts in community life and arts education.

MAC's mission is to be a catalyst for the arts and creativity in Mississippi and the agency's vision is to support and celebrate Mississippi's creative and innovative spirit

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Unless otherwise noted, MAC's annual grant deadlines are:

March 1 – for
Project &
Operating grants,
Fellowships and
Roster



Alexandria Museum of Art 27th September Competition Juried Exhibition September 5 – November 22, 2014

http://www.themuseum.org/sites/default/files/27th_sept_comp_prospectus_-_2014.pdf

Studio Protector

The Artist's Guide to Emergencies

The Studio Protector Online Guide is the source for emergency preparedness and recovery information for artists.

Small measures taken in advance of an emergency, and the right sequence of emergency response actions, can make a huge difference in reducing loss and in the time it takes to rebound from a setback.

**DISASTERS DON'T ALWAYS
HAVE NAMES...**

www.studioprotector.org



More than two-thirds of Americans live where they can no longer see the Milky Way galaxy because of light pollution. *NightVisions V* seeks to re-open our positive connections to the natural night and to bridge the divide separating artistic from scientific perception, promoting the idea that science and art are two intertwined aspects of human experience.

Exhibiting at the Coconino Center for the Arts for the fifth time, this international juried exhibition is open to all artists 18 years of age or older. This call is open to work in any media; 2-dimensional, 3-dimensional, literature, photography, video, installation, etc.

For all of the details, visit <http://flagartscouncil.org/2014/03/night-visions-v-call-entries/>

ATTENTION EDUCATORS!

Sign up now to attend the 2014 Whole Schools Summer Institute!
Visit www.mswholeschools.org to find out more.