

March/April 2008

501 North West Street - Suite 1101A Woolfolk Bldg - Jackson, MS 39201-601/359-6030

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Dear Friends,

I was honored to be one of the presenters at *Destination Graduation: Mississippi's Adult Summit* held recently at First Baptist Church in downtown Jackson. The program addressed the state's school dropout crisis and was attended by over 2,000 people from all across Mississippi. It is very encouraging to see this state taking the lead on the nation's dropout issue. Mississippi is the first state to hold a summit of this type and it is my hope that great things will come as a result. At the summit, I had the opportunity to ask those in attendance to imagine the church

with no beautiful stained glass, no beautifully crafted pews, no piano, no pipes, no organ and no choir voices. What if the only color choices were black and white and the only things you were likely to hear throughout the day was the nagging sound of the "teacher" from Charley Brown! The long and winding road to adulthood can be easier if a child has the opportunity to excel in school. It has been shown that by adding some form of art to a student's school day, their test scores improve. Unfortunately, the arts are not considered a core subject in public schools and have been taken out all together in most places. Art instructors are not even considered a "regular" teacher. The Mississippi Arts Commission has formed an education task force to help change this. It is our goal to prove that by teaching art across the curriculum, not only will the drop out rate decrease, but we will have more creative thinkers, a more successful workforce, and a brighter future for Mississippi's children.

We recently held our annual "Day at the Capitol" when arts supporters from across the state converge on the Capitol to advocate for the arts. If you were unable to attend, I encourage you to write your legislator to show support for the arts in Mississippi and also to request support of MAC's appropriation bill, HB1607.

Another beautiful Mississippi Spring is upon us and if you are out and about enjoying the weather, stop by and pay us a visit on the 11th floor of the Woolfolk State Office Building!

My best,
Malcolm



MAC'S DAY AT THE CAPITOL TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008

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Development Director



The arts had a strong voice at the Mississippi State Capitol on March 18th. Arts supporters from across the state gathered to paint, sing and perform for members of the Legislature. Special thanks to all who attended that day!

Photo top left (from left to right): V.A. Patterson, Executive Director of VSA arts of Mississippi, Malcolm White, MAC's Executive Director, Senator David Blount and MAC board member, Donna Barksdale

Photo middle left: In addition to performing that day, MAC Folk Art Apprenticeship recipient Buddy Crocker (far right) from Leakesville and his students met with their Senator, Tommy Dickerson.

Photo top right: artist Wyatt Waters painting in the State Capitol

Photo bottom right: MAC board member Dianne Walton from Meridian is a true "Arts Fan!"

GULF COAST OPERA THEATRE AUDITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Auditions for the 2008-2009 season are scheduled for May 3 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. The auditions will be held in DeMiller Hall of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Biloxi. For detailed information, contact Chester Delacruz at 228/209-3943 or email to cadsecondo@chesterd.com

Calendar of Events

March

Open mike at P.J.'s Coffee House

First Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm
Picayune, MS

Tsugako Shimada Suiboku-ga-Ten

Feb 25- March 21
Giles Architecture and Art Design Gallery, MSU

Backyards and Beyond:

Mississippi's and their stories

March 8 – June 8
Mississippi Arts Center

Public Speaking for Business Professionals

March 17-April 21
New Stage Theatre, Jackson

Tessica McClendon & Jimmy Turner

March 27, 2008
7:00pm
St. Phillip's Episcopal Church, Jackson

Charles Templeton Ragtime Music Festival

March 28-30
Starkville, MS

Tupelo Ballet presents "Cinderella"

March 29
Civic Auditorium, Tupelo

Bamboo Lecture with Richard Waters

March 29 4:00pm
Depot, Ocean Springs

Drum Circle

March 29 5:00pm
Marshal Park, Ocean Springs

Boys to Men in Song

March 29
4:00pm
Parkway Heights Methodist Church, Hattiesburg

Mississippi Boychoir Spring Concert

March 30
3:00pm
Fondren Presbyterian Church, Jackson

MAC AWARDS BUILDING FUND FOR THE ARTS GRANTS

The Board of Directors of MAC recently approved grants totaling \$1 million to organizations in 14 communities across Mississippi. The grants will be used for everything from restoring an old opera house in Copiah County to constructing a community arts education building in Stone County. The Building Fund for the Arts (BFA) is one of the most popular and visible grants administered by MAC. It depends on strong local partnerships as grantees are required to raise matching funds before the state monies are dispersed. Since its inception in 2001, BFA has awarded 139 grants totaling \$19 million. As a result, communities across the state have begun construction of new cultural facilities or brought new life to old buildings. These structures provide a location for community theatre, after-school art classes for children and other varied cultural activities. Below is a list of the 2008 recipients.

Copiah County – to purchase, stabilize and begin to restore the Faler Opera House

City of Olive Branch – used to determine the feasibility of renovating the old police station as an art center

Desoto Civic Center – for phase III of renovations to the Center

City of Grenada – to restore the historic Masonic Temple to serve as a community arts center

Bay St. Louis Little Theatre – to renovate a historic structure to replace the old theatre

City of Jackson – for continued renovation of Thalia Mara Hall

Holmes County Arts Council – to stabilize deteriorating brick and provide additional lighting

City of Oxford/Yoknapatawpha Arts Council – for continued renovation of the Powerhouse Community Arts Center

Tupelo Community Theatre – to purchase a performance/warehouse space and renovate

Brookhaven Little Theatre – to restore the Haven Theatre

City of Booneville – to renovate Booneville Hardware for use as a performing arts center

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College – to construct a community arts education building

Vicksburg Theatre Guild – for sound equipment and increased storage capacity

Eupora Arts, Inc. – to continue renovation of the BLY Fine Arts Center



Pictured: left-Powerhouse Community Arts Center in Oxford; right-The Haven Theatre in Brookhaven

Coming in April

Puppetry Jam 2008 - Performing Arts Festival

April 3 & 4, 2008
9:00am

Mississippi Museum of
Art, Jackson

Bach to Bach

April 3
7:00pm

St. Phillip's Episcopal
Church, Jackson

Crossroads Film Festival

April 3-6, 2008
Parkway Theater,
Flowood

Mississippi Writers Guild Annual Spring Retreat

April 4-5, 2008
Friday: 5:00; Saturday
8:00

Mockingbird
Cafe/Magnolia Plantation,
Gulfport

A Mississippi Celebration

April 10-12, 2008
9:00 a.m. 4/10-8:30p.m
4/12

Mississippi Museum of
Art, Jackson, MS

Chanson d'Amour

April 10
7:00pm

St. Philip's Episcopal
Church Jackson

Jay Ungar and Molly Mason in concert

April 13, 2008
7:00pm

First United Methodist
Church, Gulfport

Baroque Violin Sonatas by Veracini

April 14, 2008
7:30pm

St. Philip's Episcopal
Church, Jackson

Secret Histories: Oxford

April 17, 18, 19, 20
8pm, 2pm

The Powerhouse, Oxford

Asian Art Song

April 17, 7:00pm

St. Philip's Episcopal
Church, Jackson

POETRY OUT LOUD NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST

Poetry Out Loud State Finals

The third annual state finals for the Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest were held on Friday, March 7th at 1:00pm at New Stage Theatre in Jackson. The competition, presented in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the Poetry Foundation, is part of a national program that encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization, performance and competition. The winner of the statewide competition was Grant Cochran from Washington School in Greenville. He will travel to Washington D.C. for the National Finals on April 28th. For more information, contact MAC's Arts Education Director, Kim Whitt at kwhitt@arts.state.ms.us.



Photo left: The four finalists were (left to right) Grant Cochran from Washington School, Verneshia Heidelberg from Laurel High School, David Hudson from Ridgeland High School and Shaniqua Wesley from Water Valley High School

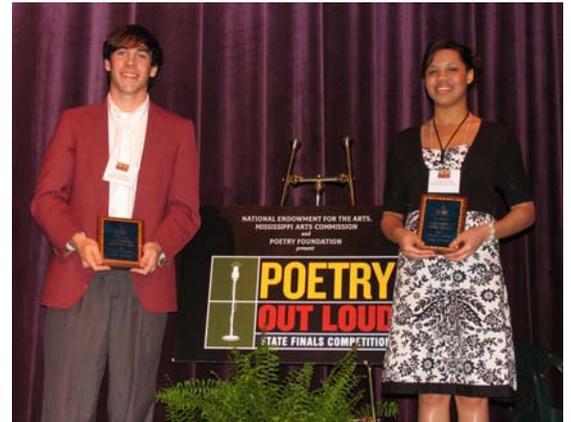


Photo right: Winner Grant Cochran (L) from Washington School in Greenville and runner up Shaniqua Wesley (R) from Water Valley High School.



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

University of Mississippi – July 20-24, 2008
Visit www.mswholeschools for more information

ATTENTION VISUAL ARTISTS!!!

The UrbanArt Commission is seeking an artist to create a fun and unique public arts enhancement for Countrywood Park (soon to be named Fletcher Creek Park) in Memphis. The budget for this artwork is \$50,000. All artists who live in Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi are invited to submit proposals by 4:00pm on Wednesday, May 7. Guidelines and all details can be found at www.urbanartcommission.org or call 901/525-0880.

Smoke on the Mountain

4/15, 17, 18, 19, 20
7pm, 2pm(20th)
The Dixie Theatre, Ripley

39th Annual Crosstie Arts & Jazz Festival

Saturday, April 19
9 am to 4 pm
Bolivar County Courthouse lawn,
Cleveland, MS

MS Vocal Arts Ensemble

April 24, 7:00pm
St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Jackson

Bone Up on Bones

Now through May 11
Open Daily
MS Museum of Natural Science, 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 on Jackson's WLEZ - 103.7FM

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.

The mother arts is architecture. Without an architecture of our own we have no soul of our own civilization

Frank Lloyd Wright



MAC's "TAKE PART!" DOCUMENTARY INCLUDED IN FILM FESTIVAL

"Take Part!", the documentary video commissioned by MAC that details the work of the Mississippi Museum of Art, the Mississippi Opera, and Mississippi Cultural Crossroads on the grant initiative of the same name, will be shown as part of the 2008 Crossroads Film Festival in Jackson. The film will be screened at the Mississippi Museum of Art on Saturday, April 5th at 1:00pm. There is no admission charge.

Photo: Mississippi Cultural Crossroads' Children's Community Choir (Port Gibson) is one of the featured groups in MAC's "Take Part!" documentary

31ST ANNUAL MISSISSIPPI DELTA BLUES & HERITAGE FESTIVAL POSTER CONTEST

Mississippi Action for Community Education (MACE) is accepting entries for the poster design for the 2008 festival. The theme this year is "Rollin'. Going Home to da Blues" The contest is open artists of all ages. Anyone under 18 must have a parent submit their design. All entries must be received by April 30, 2008. For more information visit www.deltablues.org or call 662/335-3523.

2009 BRIMSTONE AWARD FOR APPLIED STORYTELLING

The National Storytelling Network is pleased to invite applications for the fifth Brimstone Award for Applied Storytelling – a grant of \$5,000 for a project that will be completed in calendar year 2009. Preliminary proposal deadline is Friday, May 2, 2008. For details visit <http://www.storynet.org/programs/grants/brimstone/index.html>

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