

March 2012

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Dear Friends,

The blues have shaped American music for over a century, and many people all over the world consider the blues Mississippi's greatest contribution to global culture.

In recognition of this, the state created the Mississippi Blues Commission (MBC) in 2005. Its original charter established a statewide Blues Trail, but it soon became clear that more was needed than just historical sites and signs. As Rep. Willie Bailey explains, "When the Blues Commission started putting up Trail markers across the state we discovered that many grassroots blues pioneers, artists and musicians were experiencing hardships due to misfortune and poverty."

In 2010, the Mississippi Blues Commission was authorized "to raise and expend grant funds to provide assistance to any blues musician in need." The Blues Benevolent Committee was created to oversee the distribution of these funds. Now any established blues musician in need can apply for up to \$1,000 in a 12-month period. The Mississippi Blues Foundation, the fundraising arm of the MBC, spearheads efforts to secure support for this work. Currently, most money for the Blues Benevolent Committee comes from car tags and donations from the annual Mississippi Blues Marathon, organized annually by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi.



The Mississippi Blues Benevolent Committee has granted awards to artists across Mississippi including "Cadillac" John Nolden, singer and harmonica player active since the mid-1940s; Tommie "T-Bone" Pruitt, singer and guitarist since the early 1950s; Bill "Howlin' Madd" Perry, singer and guitarist since the 1960s; Jim O'Neal, blues producer and a co-founder of Living Blues magazine; and Duff Dorough, singer, guitarist and founding member of The Tangents. All of the artists have been extremely honored and thankful to get the support, and Dorough called it a "win-win deal all the way around."

Dr. Edgar Smith, chairman of the Benevolent Committee, points out that support is accepted from anyone who can provide needed funds or services. He was recently speaking in a public forum and mentioned that he was aware of a need for dental assistance and a dentist in the audience volunteered his services at no cost. This is the type of assistance that is invaluable to those in need. The blues is based on hard times, and for many years the cultural and heritage movements in Mississippi have sought to honor these artists and support them when hard times come back around. Now that the Benevolent Committee has been established under Dr. Smith's leadership and persistence and we have finally put our money where our mouths are.

Rep. Bailey said it best. "To come to the aid of suffering blues artists and musicians expresses Mississippi's appreciation and recognition of their contributions to this native art form. We don't want them standing on a corner with a cup begging, 'Brother, can you spare a dime?'"

My best,  
Malcolm

## MAC Staff

Malcolm White  
Executive Director

Lee Powell  
Deputy Director

Susan Dobbs  
Public Relations  
Director

Teresa Haygood  
Executive Assistant

Jodie Engle  
Whole Schools  
Initiative Program  
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Special Initiatives  
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Diane Williams  
Arts Industry Director

Allison Winstead  
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Development Director

## MAC'S ANNUAL DAY AT THE CAPITOL



MAC invites you to join arts advocates from across Mississippi on Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm, for MAC's annual "Day at the Capitol." This special day for arts advocacy at our State Capitol is more important now than ever, because the new leadership needs to understand the important role the arts play in their community.

We will have special performances all afternoon including the state's new Poet Laureate, Natasha Trethewey, and special areas set up for Mississippi's individual artists (visual, musicians and writers), arts organizations, and arts in education organizations to set up their printed materials

to share with lawmakers. Please contact Susan Dobbs, Public Relations Director with MAC to confirm your attendance. Don't forget to contact your legislator before that day to set up an appointment with them during that time. To find out who represents you in the House and the Senate, visit the MS Legislature website at <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us>. Find some advocacy tips on MAC's website at <http://www.arts.state.ms.us/advocacy/index.php>. If you need any assistance or have any questions contact Susan Dobbs at [sdobbs@arts.state.ms.us](mailto:sdobbs@arts.state.ms.us). We hope you will join us as we "raise the roof" of the State Capitol on March 27<sup>th</sup>!

GOVERNMENT & THE ARTS:  
a creative partnership



## 2012 GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS TO AIR ON MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC BROADCASTING



The ceremony celebrating the accomplishments of six amazing artists from across Mississippi will be aired on Mississippi Public Broadcasting on March 28<sup>th</sup> and again on April 1<sup>st</sup>. If you weren't able to join us for this outstanding event, tune in to learn why these folks were selected to be Mississippi's "best" for 2012!

Photo of 2012 recipients: back row from left – Carl Jackson, Excellence in Music and Howard Bahr, Excellence in Literature. Front row from left – Lee McCarty of McCarty Pottery, Excellence in Visual Art; Keith Tonkel of WellsFest, Arts in Community; Althea Jerome, Arts in Education and Mose Allison, Lifetime Achievement

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Greenville Honors Its Own

March 23  
6:30 p.m.  
E.E. Bass Cultural Arts Center, Greenville, MS

### Handel's Oratorio Messiah

March 23  
7:00 p.m.  
Biloxi First United Methodist

### George F. Handel's Oratorio Messiah

March 24  
7:00 p.m.  
Wade Baptist Church  
Wade, Mississippi

### 3rd Annual Laurel Irish Ceili

March 24, 2012  
6-9 PM  
YWCO, 428 W. Oak St.,  
Laurel, MS

### George F. Handel's Oratorio Messiah

March 25  
3:00 p.m.  
Trinity UMC, 5007 Lawson  
Gulfport, MS

### Mississippi's Baseball Legacy

Monday, March 26, 2012  
7:00 p.m.  
Millsaps College Recital Hall  
Jackson, MS

### Michael Feldman's Whad'Ya Know?

March 31, 2012  
9:30 AM - 12:00 Noon  
Saenger Theatre, 416  
Reynoir Street  
Biloxi, MS

### Ironwood Market: Art on the Tracks

March 31, 2012  
10 am - 5 pm  
Railroad Blvd  
McComb, Mississippi

### 24th Annual Barbecue Under the Oaks

Date: March 31, 2012  
Time: 11:30 - 2:00  
Location: Oaklawn, Pass  
Christian, MS

### Tupelo Ballet presents "Don Quixote"

Saturday, March 31, 2012  
2:00 PM  
Tupelo Civic Auditorium

To find a complete listing of events or to have your event listed visit

[www.arts.state.ms.us/calendar/](http://www.arts.state.ms.us/calendar/)

## ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE USA IBC



An independent economic impact study shows that the ninth USA International Ballet Competition generated \$10.2 million for Miss. The impact is a 35 percent increase from the 2006 competition and a 61 percent increase over the 2002 event. Compiled by the Department of Economic and Workforce Development at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg the results are based on program operations and participant/attendee expenditures during the last competition July 12 - 27, 2010. Other figures from the study reveal just over a \$500,000 associated impact for state general fund revenues

and also personal income of \$5.2 million locally. The economic impact was calculated using ticket data, hotel reports and USA IBC records.

Thirty-one countries were represented by 100 competitors and another five were represented --by the international jury. Ticket buyers flocked from 40 states including Puerto Rico and 10 foreign countries. The total attendance for the two-week competition and ancillary events was 27,040. The companion USA IBC dance school drew 258 students from 24 states and 2 countries. The 2010 event garnered over 2 billion in online and print media impressions and welcomed nearly 800 volunteers from the metro area. The next USA IBC will be June 14-29, 2014, and a Reunion Gala will be held July 14, 2012. MAC would like to congratulate the IBC on being an outstanding example of Mississippi's Creative Economy!

## SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PHIL HARDIN FOUNDATION

MAC recently learned that The Phil Hardin Foundation has graciously awarded the agency a grant to provide additional funding for three years for our annual Whole Schools Summer Institute! This grant will allow Whole Schools to continue to provide outstanding programming during this professional development opportunity for teachers and administrators.



## DELTA ARTS ALLIANCE HOSTS RETROSPECTIVE MCCARTY POTTERY EXHIBIT

The Delta Arts Alliance is proud to host an exhibit of McCarty Pottery! Over 100 of the amazing McCarty pieces will be on exhibit at The Ellis Theatre in Cleveland through March 31st. The exhibition will showcase glazes, colors and pieces that have never been on display before, most from private collections that will never be put together again.

Pictured: Lee McCarty at the 2012 Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts. McCarty Pottery was the recipient of the Excellence in Visual Arts award.



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](http://mpbonline.org). The show can also be heard on MAC's website and through Apple's iTunes

### Upcoming shows

March 18  
Malcolm White hosts with filmmaker, Jim Dollarhide

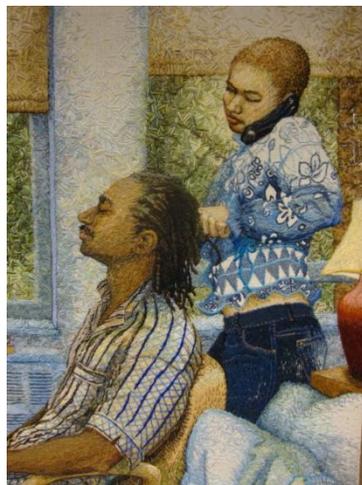
March 25  
Larry Morrissey hosts with jazz singer, Effie Burt

April 1  
Diane Williams hosts with guest to be determined

April 8  
Mary Margaret Miller White hosts with guests from the Crossroads Film Festival

***"I believe that creativity will be the currency of the 21<sup>st</sup> century."***

-Gerald Gordon, Ph.D.,  
President/CEO, Fairfax County, Virginia Economic Development Authority



Join MAC for a reception in our Gallery on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of the Woolfolk State Office Building in downtown Jackson, featuring the work of the 2012 Visual Arts Fellowship recipients. The reception will be held on Thursday, March 15th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. This show is truly amazing and we hope you will make plans to join us!  
Image of work by Ruth Miller

## MISSISSIPPI ARTS HOUR PAGE GETS AN UPDATE!

MAC recently updated the "Arts Hour" page on our website! There are now photos of each recent guest. Also, you can click on the category buttons at the top of the "Recent Shows" list (all shows broadcast within the last year) and the "Archives" page (all older shows, going back to 2006) to see lists of all of the shows that have been done under that topic area. Check out the updates at [www.arts.state.ms.us/podcast](http://www.arts.state.ms.us/podcast).

Podcasts > Arts > Performing Arts > Mississippi Arts Commission



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Category: Performing Arts  
Language: English  
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More From Mississip...

### Mississippi Arts Hour

#### Podcast Description

In-depth conversations with artists, musicians, craftspeople and others involved in the arts in Mississippi. This is an e show that is broadcast statewide on Mississippi Public Broadcasting's radio network (Sunday afternoons at 3:00pm).. Commission is the state's official arts granting and service agency. It receives its funding from the Mississippi legislat

▲	Name	Time	Released	Description	Pc
1	Oxford Musician Tyler Keith (Feb. 26,...	39:57	2/28/12	Larry talks with Oxford-based mu...	👍
2	Music of the South Symposium (Feb...	36:01	2/16/12	Mary Margaret talks with Ted Ow...	👍
▶	Curious George in Mississippi (Feb...	42:33	2/16/12	Malcolm visits with Ellen Ruffin ...	👍
4	Percussionist Adib Sabir (Feb. 5, 20...	39:49	2/6/12	Diane interviews Jackson-based...	👍
5	Puppeteer Peter Zapletal (Jan. 29, 2...	45:23	1/27/12	Larry visits with master puppetee...	👍

After you have a chance to check it out, we want need your help! Do you have an iPod or iPhone? Do you use iTunes to add music or shows to it? If so, you can help us expand the reach of the "Arts Hour" by reviewing the show in iTunes. Search for "Mississippi Arts Hour" in iTunes (the show is listed as a podcast). Go to the bottom of the show page (pictured above) and click on "leave a review." The more good reviews the show gets, the better placement it will receive by iTunes. If you have questions on how to add a review, contact Larry Morrissey at MAC at [morissey@arts.state.ms.us](mailto:morrissey@arts.state.ms.us)

## SonEdna Foundation Executive Director

The SonEdna Foundation develops and produces literary programs that benefit the Mississippi Delta and beyond. We are currently seeking our first full-time Executive Director - someone who is looking for a challenging opportunity to lead the organization through its next stage of growth. Established in 2006, SonEdna has developed a solid reputation for innovative and high quality programming with established and aspiring writers throughout the United States. With a good beginning, the organization is poised to grow substantially with the right leadership. For a complete job description visit [http://www.sonednajobs.org/SFI\\_ED\\_Search/Job\\_Description.html](http://www.sonednajobs.org/SFI_ED_Search/Job_Description.html)