

May 2010

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Our Budget Runneth Over?

With all the talk and news about revenue shortfalls and budget cuts in state funding, I thought I would share the Mississippi Arts Commission's place in that conversation.

We no longer think of the dollar amount agreed upon by the Legislature and Governor as a *budget*, but rather as *estimated revenue* because we know that figure is subject to reduction whenever the economy dips, and lately we have seen several of these dips first hand.

Like all other state agencies, our fiscal year 2010 budget, (July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010) has been cut five times this year and represents an approximately 10% reduction from where we started. These cuts were mandated by law and fairly well distributed across state government. MAC was treated no differently than the majority of other state agencies and we absorbed our cuts mostly in administration expenditures like travel, supplies, equipment and contracts. To the casual observer, these funding reductions have not affected granting or the services we provide the 2.9 million Mississippians from Benton to Harrison, and from Kemper to Issaquena counties. In fact, we have managed to keep the granting pool at an all-time agency high by using some reserve funds, conservative management, partnerships, and strategic planning. It is the position of the Arts Commission to work tirelessly to be relevant and accountable for these precious tax dollars, and to provide the very best service to the field. We are grateful for the public and private funds that fuel our work, and we appreciate the support of the Governor and the Legislature toward our shared goals.

The Mississippi Legislature has just passed our general fund appropriation for FY 2011 and that figure is approximately 15% less than where we started this year. That 15% reduction is about average for most state agencies and frankly, in this economy, a vote of confidence in a difficult time.

It is important to always remember when thinking about our funding that the Mississippi Arts Commission is funded by three sources, the federal government, the state government and private sources. This discussion about state revenue shortfalls and budget cuts is exclusive to the state government piece of that pie. (letter continued on next page)



(photo right – MAC's Director, Malcolm White, does the Cupid Shuffle recently in Smith Park in downtown Jackson with a group of students from St. Andrew's School. Afterward, Malcolm spoke to the students about the art of architecture in downtown Jackson.)

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

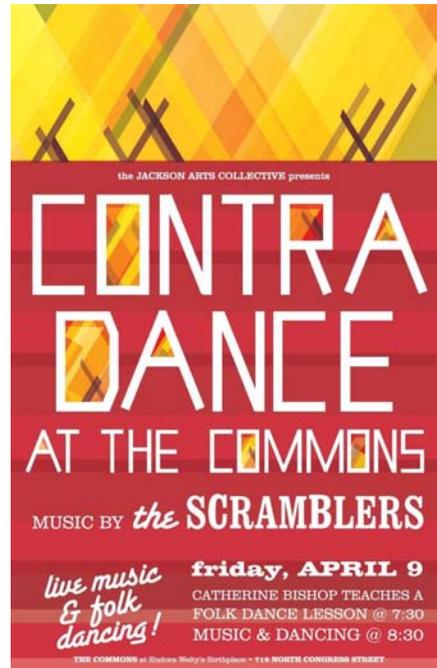
Kim Whitt
Arts Education
Director

Diane Williams
Arts Industry Director

Allison Winstead
Arts-Based
Community
Development Director

Here is a brief historical review of the MAC funding that comes from state revenues starting with our general fund budget for next year and looking back for some perspective. In FY 2001, we received \$1.7M as a starting point which was a high point in recent times, in 2004 it was \$1.3M, 2008 was \$1.4M, and for this coming year the magic beginning place is \$1.2M. So you can see, we are in a relatively good place in a weak global economy. We prefer to see the glass half full rather than half empty.

My best,
Malcolm



Jamie Weems, old-time string player and MAC Heritage constituent, was awarded \$1000 from the American Folklife Center's Henry Reed Fund to support a monthly series of Contra Dances featuring live regional string band music. The Contra Dances feature a variety of traditional folk dances, typically matched with Old Time, Celtic, or Appalachian music. Reels, jigs, polkas, square dances, and numerous other dances are taught and danced in a single event. The dances are lead by Catherine Bishop, a Fulbright dance scholar and the only Mississippian to hold a certification from the Irish Dancing Commission in Dublin, Ireland.

The Contra Dances are sponsored in part by the Jackson Arts Collective (JAC), a

consortium of visual artists, musicians, writers, poets, and everyone in between. The goal of the JAC is to increase exposure of artists through hosting events highlighting Jackson's artistic diversity. As a fiduciary of the Greater Jackson Arts Council, the Jackson Arts Collective facilitates events that emerge from the Jackson arts community in hope that the community can continue to direct itself in an increasingly more effective manner.

ATTENTION EDUCATORS!!



Online registration is now open for the 2010 Whole Schools Summer Institute, "Bringing Heritage Home" July 18-22, 2010 MSU Riley Center Meridian, MS

www.mswholeschools.org

Calendar of Events – May

Unburied Treasures

May 18, 2010
5:30pm
Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson

“History is Lunch”: A Brown Bag Lecture Series

May 19, 2010
12noon
Old Capitol Museum, Jackson

Unwind After 5

May 20, 2010
Hall of Fame Restaurant, Little Yazoo

MS Community Symphonic Band Concert

May 22, 2010
7:00pm
Belhaven Center for the Arts, Jackson

The Soulshine Blues & Groove Festival

May 22, 2010
8:00am to 11:00pm
The Township at Colony Park, Ridgeland

Renaissance Fine Art Festival

May 22 & 23, 2010
The Renaissance, Ridgeland

Breaking Up is Hard to Do

May 25-June 6, 2010
New Stage Theatre, Jackson

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

MANY THOUSANDS OF CHARITIES RISK LOSING THEIR NONPROFIT STATUS AS NEW TAX DEADLINE APPROACHES

Hundreds of thousands of nonprofit organizations could lose their tax-exempt status this month.

Nobody really knows for sure how many organizations will lose their tax exemptions, but several research groups estimate that more than 300,000 organizations listed on the Internal Revenue Service's rolls ultimately could be affected. While many of those groups have long since ceased to exist, many others, such as soup kitchens, neighborhood baseball clubs, and local arts organizations are likely to be affected because they have not filed required IRS forms for the past three years.

Read the entire article to find out if your organization is at risk.

<http://philanthropy.com/article/Many-Groups-Stand-to-Lose/65505/>

NEA CHALLENGE AMERICAN FAST-TRACK GRANT DEADLINE MAY 28, 2010

The Challenge America Fast-Track category offers support primarily to small and mid-sized organizations for projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations -- those whose opportunities to experience the arts are limited by geography, ethnicity, economics, or disability. Age alone (e.g., youth, seniors) does not qualify a group as underserved; at least one of the underserved characteristics noted here also must be present. This category, as an essential component of the Arts Endowment's goal of providing wide access to artistic excellence, supports local projects that can have significant effects within communities. Grants are available for professional arts programming and for projects that emphasize the potential of the arts in community development. For more information, please visit

<http://www.nea.gov/grants/apply/GAP11/Challenge.h>

CONGRATULATIONS!



The National Storytelling Network's (NSN) 2010 Southeast Region Service & Leadership ORACLE Award recipient is Kathryn Lewis of Perkinston, MS. She will receive the award in Los Angeles, California at the NSN Conference – July 29-August 1, 2010. Kathryn is the NSN State Liaison for Mississippi.

The National Storytelling Network (NSN) proudly recognizes individuals and organizations for outstanding contributions to storytelling. The award is given to those who have made contributions to their local or regional storytelling community and/or they have used storytelling to make a significant contribution to the larger community in which they live.



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

May 23

Diane Williams hosts with singer, G.C. Cameron

May 30

Mary Margaret Miller hosts with blues musician, Melvin "House Cat" Hendrex

June 6

Malcolm White hosts with artist, Greg Cartmel

June 13

Larry Morrissey hosts with woodcut artist, Sean Starwars

Think of all the beauty still left around you and be happy.
Anne Frank

FITNESS WITH FLAIR!



The students of Bay/Waveland Middle School on the Mississippi Gulf Coast who participate in MAC's "Moving Toward the Art of Good Health" ballroom dance fitness/wellness program were outstanding during their final performance of the year on Friday, May 7, 2010. Special thanks to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation for sponsoring the pilot program.

Listen to a story about the program by Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Ron Brown that aired on May 13, 2010. (click on the headphones at the top left of the page to listen to the story)

<http://www.mpbonline.org/news/story/mississippi-arts-commission-tangos-health>

NOMINATION DEADLINE FOR 2011 GOVERNOR'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS JUNE 25, 2010



On May 7, 2010 Malcolm White (left) attended a reception in Bay St. Louis honoring some of the participants of ArtWorks, MAC's artist mentoring program. Pictured are students proudly showing off their outstanding creations. Their instructor was artist, Yuki Northington (center).