

September 2008

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Greetings from the Mississippi Arts Commission!

Trying to Reason with Hurricane Season!

Mississippi State Government is on high alert, but not about the mortgage crisis, the anticipated tax revenue shortfall, funding Medicaid or the drop out rate in our schools. Never has the citizenry been more aware of the potential for another natural disaster as we are right now. In fact, the entire country is cued and standing ready as never before. As the tropical storms line up like planes awaiting take off at JFK, the states surrounding the Gulf of Mexico are making plans to batten down the hatches and evacuate north if necessary. The government, including and in some case lead by the arts, is prepared for the worst, and for the best possible quality of readiness, response, and (if necessary) recovery. Emergency preparedness is not sexy government work, but it is necessary and a fundamental part of prevention, like dental floss. The Mississippi Arts Commission has been pro-active since Katrina and continues to formulate much of the cultural-based preparedness in the southeast and across the nation. Much of this work has been made possible by the National Endowment of the Arts and Humanities and the U.S. Department of Labor. If it seems like emergency preparedness has become routine, then to some extent, that is good news. Being prepared in these uncertain times makes good sense and we at the MAC see this work as a necessary part of our role in this new reality.

Meanwhile back at the MAC, it is time to begin the advocacy process to make a case for the state portion of our budget. We operate with funds from three sources; federal funds from the U.S. Congress through the National Endowment for the Arts, state funds from the Mississippi Legislature, and funds raised in the private sector through our Mississippi Arts Endowment. On Wednesday, September 17th at 1:45 PM, I go before the Joint Legislative Budget Committee to verbalize our request for the 2009 Legislative session. We are asking for a \$500,000 increase to be used strictly for re-granting to schools, communities, museums and artists across Mississippi. Our goal is to bring the arts into the lives of all 2.8 million Mississippians. This budget increase will go a long way toward that goal. Last year, we increased our grant pool by \$200,000 thanks to small, but significant increases from the Legislature and the NEA. We are grateful, but the need continues and we will ask for your help in making the case for this increase.

Continued.....

MAC Staff

Malcolm White
Executive Director

Lee Powell
Deputy Director

Susan Dobbs
Public Relations
Director

Judi Holifield
Whole Schools
Initiative Program
Director

Sallye Killebrew
Arts Recovery
Coordinator

Larry Morrissey
Director of Grants &
Special Initiatives

Alesha Nelson
Fiscal Officer

Shirley Smith
Systems
Administrator

Candice Thomley
Executive Assistant

Kim Whitt
Arts in Education
Director

Diane Williams
Arts Industry Director

Allison Winstead
Arts-Based
Community
Development Director

We are working daily to partner with local, state and federal agencies; private funders; school districts; community foundations; and national arts institutions like Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center, and the Andy Warhol Foundation, to bring the very best and most innovative processes and arts funding to Mississippi. The arts have historically been good at leveraging. When we ask for an increase in funding, the conventional wisdom is that we just spend it and ask for more, but nothing could be further from the truth. The Mississippi Arts Commission takes pride in being good stewards of public funding, and promises that with every dollar coming from taxpayers, we will continue to work diligently to raise a matching dollar from the private sector. We will continue to leverage those dollars through innovative partnerships. You may have heard this concept being tossed around in political rhetoric over the years...a business approach to running government. This isn't a sound-byte at MAC, but rather a business approach to running your state arts agency.

I sincerely hope you will join us on September 17th at 1:45pm. I look forward to seeing you!

My best,
Malcolm



MAC LAUNCHES NEW VISUAL ARTS DIRECTORY WEBSITE

The Mississippi Arts Commission is proud to announce the [Mississippi Visual Arts Directory](#) website is up and ready for business! This site is a regularly updated resource on the visual arts across Mississippi. Included on the site is information on Mississippi-based visual artists, craftsmen, galleries, museums, cultural centers and arts education facilities. The Commission provides listings on the site as a courtesy to artists and arts organizations across Mississippi, so we encourage you to sign up! If you have any questions, contact Susan Dobbs at sdobbs@arts.state.ms.us.

Calendar of Events - September

Unburied Treasures: Tell Me a Story

Sept. 14, 2008
3:00-4:00p.m.
Charleston Arts Center,
W Court Sq, Charleston,
MS

John Hiatt and Joan Osborne

Sept. 16, 2008
8 p.m.
MSU Riley Center,
Meridian, MS

Ripley Arts Council Presents: "Harvey"

Sept. 16, 18, 20, 21
7pm - 2pm on 21st
The Dixie Theatre, Ripley

Well by Lisa Kron

9/17 - 9/19 and 9/21-
9/23
8pm, 2pm Sunday
University of Mississippi,
Oxford, MS

Shangri-La Gala

September 18, 2008
6:30pm
Lake Terrace Convention
Center, Hattiesburg

September's Song Festival

September 27, 2008
9:00 a.m. until
Hwy 3 South Marks, MS

A Feast for the Eye

Sept 27 - Nov 2
TBA
St. Stephen's Episcopal
Church, Indianola, MS

Wing Dang Doodle

September 27, 2008
Noon - 5:00 p.m.
Gaddis Park, Forest, MS

Coming in October

NEA The Big Read: DeSoto County Reads Tom Sawyer

October 1-31, 2008
Various
DeSoto County, MS

WAR

October 3, 2008
8:00pm
MSU Riley Center,
Meridian, MS



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS!!!!

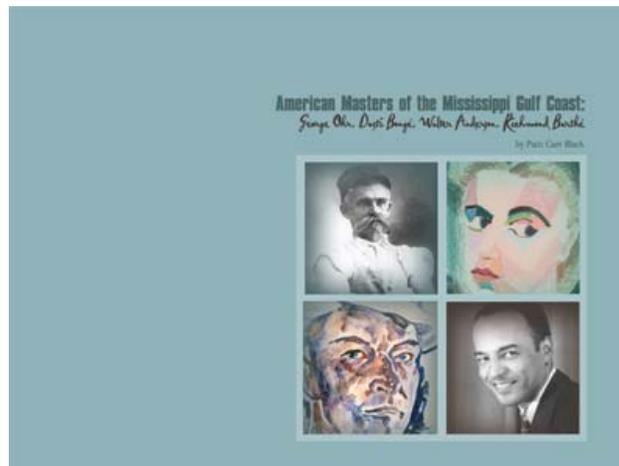
Poetry Out Loud is a program that encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization, performance and competition. From September 2008 through January 2009, high schools statewide are invited to participate in classroom and school-wide contests. The school winners will advance to the Forth-Annual State Finals to be held in Jackson on Friday, March 13, 2009. For more information visit the Mississippi Arts Commission website - <http://www.arts.state.ms.us/special-projects/poetryoutloud.php> or email Kim Whitt at kwhitt@arts.state.ms.us.

Registration forms must be submitted by December 31, 2008.



November 3rd is MAC's mini-grant application deadline. Application and guidelines are available at

<http://www.arts.state.ms.us/grants/index.php>



American Masters of the Mississippi Gulf Coast is now available to purchase on the University Press of Mississippi website.

This visually beautiful catalog, written by renowned author, Patti Carr Black,

outlines the amazing lives and careers of these legendary Mississippi Gulf Coast visual artists. Be sure to see the exhibit, featuring the works of these master artists, as it travels Mississippi. For a complete schedule visit MAC's website at <http://www.arts.state.ms.us/special-projects/americanmasterpieces.php>

The catalog can be purchased by visiting the University Press of Mississippi website at <http://www.upress.state.ms.us/books/1152>.

Attention Arts Advocates!!!! We hope you will attend the Legislative Budget Hearing on Wednesday, September 17th at 1:45 on the 1st Floor of the Woolfolk State Office Building. A room full of arts supporters makes a strong statement as Malcolm asks for increased arts funding for the coming year!!!

**The Sparks Family
25TH Bluegrass Gospel
Festival**

October 4, 2008
10 am - 6 pm
THE SPARKS HOMEPLACE
MUSIC PARK - Belmont,
MS

**All the Way from
Magnolia Springs**

October 10, 2008

8:00pm
MSU Riley Center,
Meridian MS

**DAC Freaks of the
Fairway Night Golf &
Party**

October 10, 2008
3 p.m.-Midnight
North Creek Golf Course,
Horn Lake, MS

**Cyrano de Bergerac by
Edmond Rostand**

October 15-29, 2008
8:00pm, 2:00pm &
8:00pm on Sunday
University of MS

**Gautier Mullet & Music
Fest**

Oct 18th & Oct 19th
Sat 11am - 6pm/ Sun
11am - 4pm
The Old Place - on the
Singing River, Gautier MS

**An Evening with
Shawn Colvin**

October 18, 2008
8:00pm
MSU Riley Center,
Meridian, MS

Robert Cray Band

October 23, 2008
8:00pm
MSU Riley Center,
Meridian, MS

Blues by Starlight

October 23, 2008
6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Highland Village, Jackson

Arts Alive Studio Tour

October 26 & 27, 2008
10:00-5:00 Sat; Noon to
5:00 Sun.
Hancock County, MS

**Visit the Calendar
page on the MAC
website for more
information on
these events OR to
have your event
listed!**

“MUSEUM ON WHEELS”



The Mississippi Arts Commission is proud to announce that the “Museum on Wheels” travelling exhibit is on the road!!! This ten-panel, standing “lesson in visual” art is currently at the Brookhaven Public Library. It has also stopped at the Hazlehurst and Crystal Springs Libraries and will visit public libraries across the state. The exhibit introduces audiences to the basic elements of visual art by providing simple definitions alongside classical and contemporary replicas by European, American and Mississippi artists. Libraries interested in hosting the exhibit, contact Susan Dobbs at sdobbs@arts.state.ms.us. Special thanks to The Wallace Foundation for funding this outstanding exhibit.



The Southern Arts Federation and the Mississippi Arts Commission are pleased to welcome 23 new artists to the online registry – SouthernArtistry.org. This website is a free, juried registry dedicated to showcasing the lives and work of outstanding visual artists, designers, writers, performers, filmmakers, and teaching artists who are living and working in the South. Visit the site for a complete list of Mississippi artists. Congratulations to all those selected!



The Mississippi Blues Foundation is undertaking an exciting new project! The Mississippi Blues Trail specialty car tag must have 200 commitments for the tag to become available in January 2009. The deadline to apply is October 15th. For detailed

information visit msbluestrail.org.



Listen to MAC's "Mississippi Arts Hour" Thursdays at 5:00pm on Jackson's WLEZ - 103.7FM and Saturdays at 11:00am on Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Music Radio - WMPN 91.3. The show can also be heard on MAC's website and through Apple's iTunes

If you don't have HD Radio, stream the show from MPB's website at mpbonline.org

September 13
Malcolm White hosts with blues legend, Bobby Rush

September 20
Diane Williams hosts with guest, BJ Johnston

September 27
Malcolm White hosts with Oxford-based rock group, Blue Mountain

Coming in October:
October 4
Larry Morrissey hosts with guest, Eden Brent

October 11
Malcolm White hosts with guest Sallye Killebrew

Try not to become a man of success but rather to become a man of value
- Albert Einstein

ARTS-RELATED JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Heritage Program Director Mississippi Arts Commission

The Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) is seeking a highly qualified and enthusiastic professional to serve as its Heritage Program Director. The Heritage Program focuses on increasing awareness of Mississippi's folk and traditional art forms. The program awards grants to individual artists and organizations that present them. The Heritage Program Director also manages a series of initiatives focused on the traditional arts. Applicants should have an appropriate mix of education and professional experience (outlined in the full position announcement), experience conducting fieldwork, proficiency with standard office computer programs, advanced writing skills, and experience working in a team-based environment.

This is a full-time, permanent position with the State of Mississippi. To apply, send a résumé with cover letter, a short writing sample, and a list of professional references by September 26, 2008 to:

Malcolm White
Executive Director
Mississippi Arts Commission
501 N. West Street, Suite 1101A
Woolfolk Building
Jackson, MS 39201

The full position announcement (with details on job responsibilities as well as required and desired skills) is available on MAC's website at: www.arts.state.ms.us/news/PositionAnnouncement.php
The Mississippi Arts Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer (EOE).



CERF would like to make sure that any professional craft artist who might have been affected by the recent hurricane is aware of disaster relief assistance available from CERF. Grants up to \$1,500 are available and loans up to \$8,000. For more information visit www.craftemergency.org.

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