

September 2009

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Dear Friends,

I hope you will plan to join us for our statewide arts convening November 11-13, 2009. We are excited to bring together arts-minded people from across Mississippi to hear from some outstanding speakers, to catch up with old connections and make new ones, and to once again remind ourselves why the arts are an integral part of the lives of the residents of this state.

As Mississippians, arts and culture are part of our DNA, and it always interests me to learn the impact it has on other areas of the country. Recently, I read an article based on a report released by the Greater Philadelphia (PA) Cultural Alliance that was compiled by The Wallace Foundation. The report showed that people of color are far more likely to participate in some cultural activity during the course of a year than white people. The same held true of families with children over childless couples. They studied 17 cultural organizations within a year and also did a broad demographic study of the area. They found that by 2020, more than a third of their region's 2.3 million people will be nonwhite. Based on their broad definition of "cultural engagement," which not only includes someone attending cultural venues, but also includes people who play instruments or sing in a church choir, nonwhite residents tend to be far more culturally involved than white residents. Additionally, cultural organizations tend to be under the false assumption that families with children do not participate in cultural activities. According to their study, families with children actually increased their involvement. These are some thought provoking statistics that arts organizations in Mississippi should consider.

We are always trying to come up with creative ways to help our constituents. I would like to encourage every visual arts entity in this state to sign up to be listed on our *Mississippi Visual Arts Directory* website. This online resource is an excellent promotional tool and it doesn't cost a thing to be listed. Visit www.visualarts.ms.gov to find out more.

This image represents a group of smiling arts allies, an opened book and a "wolf pine" tree. The photograph was taken on the Perkinston Campus of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, just a few short steps from where I grew up. This team of artists put together the book with a little help from the MAC, but more importantly, this group is just that - a team. The arts education project is handsomely encased between the covers of a book entitled *The Longleaf and Me: A-Z* is a collaboration between Perkinston Elementary School and Gulf Coast CC and their administration, students, faculty and staff. The tree, from my childhood, is called a "wolf tree", because (according local lore and Kathryn Lewis) it has theoretically outlived its natural cycle, ever evident by the fact that both the conifer and I are still standing!



My best,
Malcolm

Pictured from left: Kathryn Lewis, Jeff Jones, Malcolm White, Sandra Cassibry.

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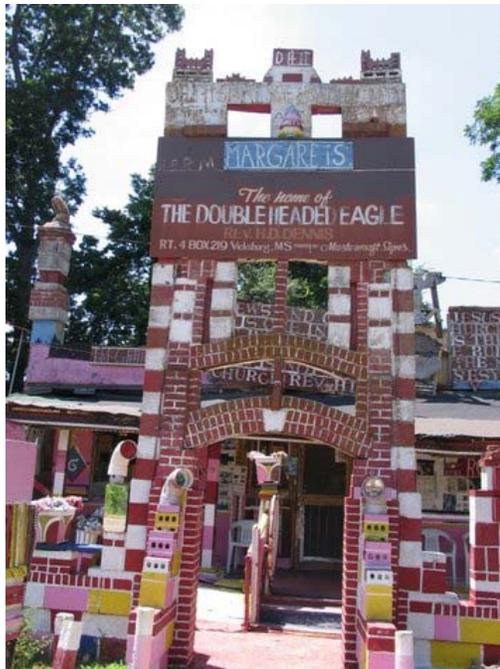
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The Mississippi Arts Commission and the Wallace Foundation are proud to present *"The Creativity Key: Unlock the Possibilities"* November 11-13, 2009. The Mississippi Arts Conference is designed to bring together artists and arts organizations to unlock the power of creative collaborations. This conference is your key to discovering new possibilities in maneuvering today's challenging environments. For more information, including conference scholarships, visit <http://www.arts.state.ms.us/news/mississippiartsconference.php>



MAC's Heritage Program recently received a \$3,000 grant from the American Folklore Society to support the Endangered Folk Art Environment initiative. The funds will be used to bring in folk art consultant Fred Fussell to evaluate the home sites of Kosciusko artist L.V. Hull and Vicksburg's Rev. H. D. Dennis.



When was the last time you visited the MAC's Folklife and Folk Artist Directory? Learn more about the traditional artists living in your community by visiting www.arts.state.ms.us/folklife. Don't see your favorite traditional artist? Email mmiller@arts.state.ms.us to request an entry on artists in your area.

Calendar of Events— September & October

Myrna Colley-Lee Exhibit

July 31-September 30
E.E. Bass Cultural Arts
Center, Greenville

September's Song Festival

Date: September 26
Time: 9:00 a.m. until
Location: Hwy 3 South
Marks, MS

India Arie

Date: Thursday, Oct. 3
Time: 7:30 pm
Location: MSU Riley
Center, Meridian, MS

Creative Writing Workshop by John Maxwell

Date: Sat, October 3
Time: 9am-11am
Location: Southern
Cultural Heritage Center,
Vicksburg, MS

Black Hills Festival

Date: October 3, 2009
Time: 9:00 a.m. till
9:00p.m.
Location: J.L. King Park,
Starkville, MS

26th Annual Sparks Family Bluegrass Festival

Date: October 3, 2009
Time: 10:00am-6:30pm
Location: Sparks Family
Homeplace Music Park,
Belmont, MS

The Bible Salesman

Date: Tues October 7
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Millsaps College
Recital Hall Jackson, MS

Fannie Lou Hamer Empowerment Project

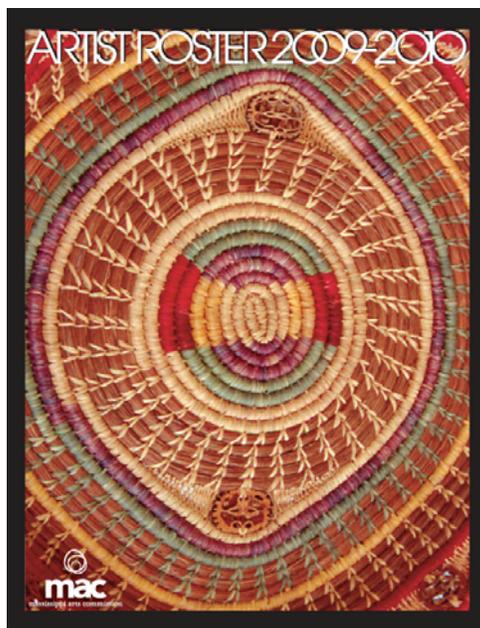
Date: Oct 9-Nov 21, 2009
Time: 9am -12 pm
Location: B.B. King
Museum & Delta
Interpretive Center,
Indianola, MS

POSTER CONTEST: 2010 FESTIVAL & EVENT COORDINATORS WORKSHOP

Mississippi is home to a wide range of festivals and other events that celebrate our state's unique culture and history. The Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) and the Mississippi Development Authority's (MDA) Tourism Division have been active supporters of many of these events through grants and other services. Therefore MAC and MDA are producing their 5th annual workshop that will provide training and networking opportunities for festival coordinators from around the state. To honor the fifth year of the Festival & Event Coordinator's Workshop, the MAC and MDA are sponsoring a poster competition for college students. The winner will receive name recognition on printed materials. The winner will also receive a full scholarship to the Mississippi Arts Conference (Nov. 11-13, 2009), including overnight accommodations at the Marriot Hotel in downtown Jackson. The Mississippi Arts Conference is designed to bring together professional artists and arts organizations to unlock the power of creative collaborations.

For more information, contact Mary Margaret Miller at mmiller@arts.state.ms.us or 601/359-6034

MAC's 2009-2010 ARTIST ROSTER IS HERE!



The Mississippi Artist Roster is a listing of artists who have been accepted to either the Teaching Artist Roster, the Mississippi Artist Roster or both. To be included, the artists and arts groups listed went through a thorough review by a panel of expert artists, presenters and educators.

The roster can be downloaded on our website:

<http://www.arts.state.ms.us/artist-roster/index.php>

or call 601/359-6030 to receive a copy by mail.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS!!! REGISTER NOW FOR POETRY OUT LOUD

Plans are underway now for the Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest. Dates for the three regional competitions are as follows: (exact locations TBD)
Southern Region: February 1
Central Region: February 3
Northern Region: February 5
The finals will be held at MS Public Broadcasting on March 11, 2010.

To register or find out more visit

<http://www.arts.state.ms.us/special-projects/poetryoutloud.php>



Classics in the Courtyard

Date: October 9, 16, 23 & 30

Time: 12pm-1pm

Location: SCH Courtyard, Vicksburg

Teaching Artist Workshop

Date: October 12-13, 2009

Time: 8:30 - 4:00

Location: Hattiesburg Cultural Center

Creme de la Craft Anniversary Celebration

Date: October 15, 2009

Time: 6:00-9:00pm

Location: MS Craft Center, Ridgeland

The Four Freshmen

Date: Oct. 16, 2009

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: MSU Riley Center, Meridian, MS

Blue Bluff Festival

Date: October 16 & 17, 2009

Time: 16th - 6pm-10pm; 17th 10am-10pm

Location: Blue Bluff Recreation Area, Aberdeen, MS

2nd Annual Mississippi Archaeology Expo

Date: October 17, 2009

Time: 10:00am-4:00pm

Location: Millsaps College, Jackson, MS

Jackson Street Fall Festival

Date: October 17, 2009

Time: 11:00am-10:00 pm

Location: Jackson St., Ridgeland, MS

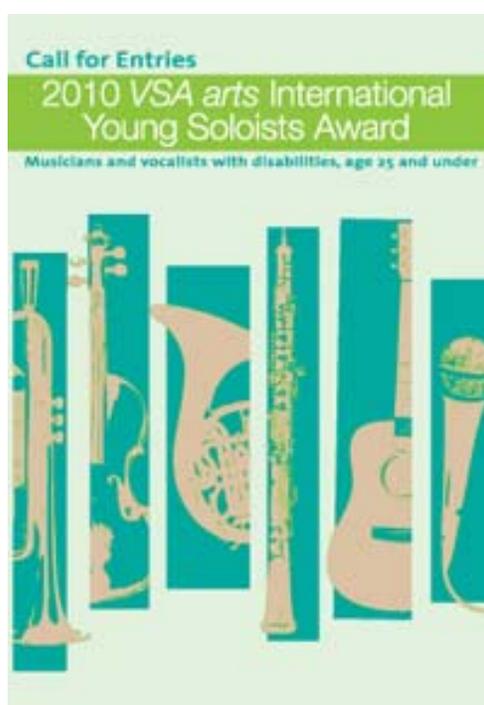
Bukka White Blue Bluff Festival

Date: October 16 - October 17

Time: 4:00pm (16th) & 9:00am (17th)

Location: Aberdeen, MS

Visit the Calendar page on the MAC website for more information on these events or to be listed!



CALL FOR ENTRIES – 2010 VSA ARTS INTERNATIONAL YOUNG SOLOISTS AWARD

Since 1984, the VSA arts International Young Soloists Program has been seeking to identify talented musicians who have a disability. The VSA arts International Young Soloists Award is given annually to four outstanding musicians, two from the United States and two from the international arena. The award provides an opportunity for these emerging musicians to each earn a \$5,000 award and a performance in Washington, D.C. The submission deadline is November 16, 2009. For more information visit

<http://www.vsarts.org/x22.xml>



MISSISSIPPI WORLD TRADE CENTER

Think Global:
Create a better future

2nd Annual Young Artists Showcase

Deadline: October 23, 2009

This contest is open to high school students across Mississippi. For more information visit <http://www.mswtc.org/resources/documents/art.pdf>

CHRISTMAS IN THE PASS ART CONTEST 2009

The Pass Christian Chamber is accepting submissions from visual and graphic artists for the 2009, 24th Annual Christmas in the Pass (CITP). No entry fee required to participate. The image will be used for the promotional poster and t-shirt. For more information contact Emily Blackwell at passchristian@mscoastchamber.com or 601/828-0059. Deadline for submission is October 16, 2009 by 5:00pm.



Listen to MAC's "Mississippi Arts Hour" Sunday's at 3pm on Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Think Radio—WMPN 91.3. The show can also be heard on MAC's website and through Apple's iTunes

September 27
Malcolm White hosts with singer / songwriter Shannon McNally

October 4
Larry Morrissey hosts with musician, Jamie Weems

October 11
Diane Williams hosts with USM Symphony Conductor, Jay Dean

October 18
Mary Margaret Miller hosts with Choctaw craftsman, William Isaac

October 25
Malcolm White hosts with Lil McKinnon Hicks and Jasmine Cole to discuss the MS Visual Arts Directory website

"YOU CAN'T WAIT FOR INSPIRATION. YOU HAVE TO GO AFTER IT WITH A CLUB."

~JACK LONDON

ARTS-RELATED JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Grand Opera House – Macon, GA

Executive Director

Mercer University (Macon, GA) seeks an Executive Director (ED) for the Grand Opera House. The ED is charged with general oversight of The Grand Opera House (GOH) and Mercer Ticket Sales (MTS) and includes management of staff, programming, rentals and budgets. The ED has the responsibility of fundraising with individuals, corporations and foundations, within The Grand's sponsorship programs, annual fund and capital campaigns and works extensively with the Board of Governors to promote the activities of the GOH.

Visit www.mercer.edu for more information.

North Carolina Theatre – Raleigh/Durham, NC

Development Director

Professional, regional theatre seeks a full time Development Director. This position works closely with the Executive Director and Board of Directors to provide leadership and management for the planning and execution of all development/partnership-related activities for the Theatre. This will include, but is not limited to, the creation and implementation of a Development Plan that features Annual Giving, Major Gifts, Corporate partnerships, donor recognition and stewardship plan, donor cultivation events and other fundraising events. This person will also oversee all grant writing and reporting. Looking for a team player who can embrace change and challenge and will thrive in an entrepreneurial performing arts environment.

Visit <http://www.mctheatre.com> for more information.

MAC REMEMBERS LEGENDARY BLUES DRUMMER, SAM CARR



Photo by Bill Steber

Sam Carr, son of the late blues legend Robert Nighthawk, passed away on Monday at the age of 83 after a long battle with congestive heart failure. Carr was an acclaimed blues drummer and master of the style called "Mississippi shuffle." In 2007, he was a recipient of a Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts.

MAC will remember this quiet, soft spoken man for his gentle smile and snappy short-brimmed hat.

TO HAVE YOUR EVENT LISTED IN THE SMARTNEWS, PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://WWW.ARTS.STATE.MS.US/CALENDAR/INDEX.PHP](http://www.arts.state.ms.us/calendar/index.php), AND FILL OUT THE FORM. WE ARE DELIGHTED TO LIST YOUR EVENTS ON OUR WEBSITE AND TO INCLUDE THEM IN THIS E-NEWSLETTER.