The Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) is a state agency serving nearly three million people through grants and special initiatives that enhance communities, assist artists and arts organizations, promote and facilitate arts education and celebrate Mississippi’s cultural heritage. MAC receives funding through the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mississippi Legislature and private sources.

FY2018 Grants to Artists, Organizations & Schools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>255</th>
<th>$1.3M</th>
<th>82</th>
<th>48</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>Funds Awarded</td>
<td>House Districts</td>
<td>Senate Districts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Supporting the Arts

Grants to Organizations

**Operating Grants** of up to $30,000 help nonprofit arts organizations maintain financial stability and improve programming.

**Project Grants** of up to $5,000 fund a broad range of arts projects.

**Minigrants for Organizations** of up to $1,000 help fund professional development and artist performances.

The **Underserved Initiative** connects MAC with counties that have not recently received grants or services.

Grants to Individuals

**Artist Fellowships** of up to $5,000 support professional development or the creation of new work.

**Folk Arts Apprenticeships** of up to $2,000 allow master traditional artists to work with emerging artists in their discipline as a means of passing down expertise.

**Artist Minigrants** of up to $500 to support professional development, promotional efforts, or supplies.

Connecting to MAC’s Strategic Plan

The Mississippi Arts Commission’s FY2018 Annual Report is tied to the Strategic Pillars, or goals, developed in MAC’s Strategic Plan for 2018-2022. On the opposite page, find out how MAC is reaching its goals. Read the full Plan: https://arts.ms.gov/who-we-are/mission-and-strategicplan/
Pillar 1: Communicate the Story of the Arts in Mississippi

Expand MAC’s role as a catalyst and public supporter of the arts.

**MAC’s new website** at arts.ms.gov, completed in FY2018, provided a digital facelift as well as improved navigation and modern editing software.

**Governor’s Arts Awards**, an annual event produced by MAC since 1988, honors outstanding artists and organizations and celebrates Mississippi’s artistic and cultural legacy. Recipients in 2018 included Steve Azar, David Keary, Joe Overstreet, V.A. Patterson, and Yoknapatawpha Arts Council.

The **Mississippi Writers Trail**, a cultural trail project recognizing our state’s accomplished literary artists, gained national attention as well as a $30,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Partners on this project include the Mississippi Humanities Council, Visit Mississippi, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and others.

**Mississippi Arts Hour** is a weekly arts interview radio show produced in partnership with Mississippi Public Broadcasting to showcase creative Mississippians. In FY2018, MAC featured 60 artists on the broadcast including author Angie Thomas, country musician Steve Azar, and blues drummer Jimmi Mayes.

Pillar 2: Convene & Offer Professional Development Opportunities

Create opportunities to strengthen connections among artists and staff from cultural institutions.

In response to data gathered through MAC’s strategic planning process, which showed that constituents across the state are eager to network, MAC began planning a **Statewide Arts Conference** in FY2018.

MAC hosted two **Arts Mean Business** events, a series of professional development workshops connecting artists, organizations, and businesses with resources such as program planning, legal compliance, fundraising, and marketing tools.

Pillar 3: Invigorate & Expand Lifelong Learning through the Arts

Continue MAC’s commitment to arts education and arts integration.

The **Whole Schools Initiative** is Mississippi’s first comprehensive statewide arts education program. In FY2018, 14,037 students benefited from the program, which is in 29 schools in the state. Educators from across the state attend the Winter and Summer Institutes to receive professional development, resources, and training in arts integration.

**Poetry Out Loud**, a program created by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, helps high school students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence and learn about their literary heritage. In FY2018, 3,322 students across Mississippi participated in this program.

Pillar 4: Expand and Diversify Fiscal Resources

Expand resource capacity beyond annual appropriations.

Using private funds from a bequest, in FY2018 MAC granted six organizations a total of $122,800 to acquire paintings by master artists as part of the **Dille Fund for Visual Art Acquisition**.

MAC also raises funds from private entities such as the Phil Hardin Foundation for the Whole Schools Initiative and various other parties for the Governor’s Arts Awards and the Mississippi Writers Trail.