

If you would like to submit your name and experience to be a panelist for the MAC

Each year many Mississippians volunteer or receive an honorarium for their time and expertise to help MAC review the pool of applications that we receive in March. Each panel is composed of individuals from across the state, selected to ensure:

- Expertise in the arts disciplines;
- Experience in administration and project management;
- Geographic diversity; and
- Ethnic or cultural diversity

Panelists review each application in a specific program area noting the extent to which it fits program guidelines and meets criteria for awarding grants. Grant panels take place during the month of April. The panel's assessment of an application must be based on the information presented in the application and not on personal knowledge of an applicant or organization. Panelists should not contact applicants to discuss an application.

Panelists should note the goal for the program area for which they are reviewing. During the panel meeting, the panelists discuss the strengths, concerns and any recommendations they have for each application, basing their findings on the criteria for the grant program they are reviewing.

The panel review meets the Open Meeting Laws of the state of Mississippi. Grant applicants or a representative of their organization may attend the review. The panels will take place over the phone this year. Applicants will be in "listen" mode only and they will not be introduced during the call and will not be able to comment on their application.

If you are interested in serving the state of Mississippi by being a panelist for the Mississippi Arts Commission, please send an email to the program director who oversees the grant program you feel you have expertise in adjudicating. Requesting an opportunity to serve does not guarantee that you will be included. It will depend on the thoroughness of your letter stating your experience, and whether we have applications that are addressed by your background. Send emails to any of the following:

Arts Industry (single discipline organization) and Performing Arts
Sondra Lee Bell – slee-bell@arts.ms.gov

Literary Artists
Kristen Brandt – kbrandt@arts.ms.gov

Arts-Based Community Development and Visual Artists
Melody Thortis – mthortis@arts.ms.gov

Folk & Traditional Arts, Artists, Filmmaking and Media Arts
Maria Zeringue – mzeringue@arts.ms.gov

Arts Education and Whole Schools Initiative
Charlotte Smelser – csmelser@arts.ms.gov

If you are interested in working with individual artist applications, visit the MAC website at: <https://arts.ms.gov/grants/grants-for-individuals/>

If you are interested in working with arts and cultural organization applications, visit the MAC Website: <https://arts.ms.gov/grants-for-organizations/>

Please cc your request to the following:

Diane Williams
Director of Grants
Mississippi Arts Commission
501 N. West Street, Suite 1101-A
Jackson, MS 39201
dwilliams@arts.ms.gov
(601) 359-6030