



Speakers | Oct. 9, 2020 | How-to Track

Promoting Yourself and Your Work Online



Rita Brent - 1

Rita Brent is a comedian, musician and military veteran from Jackson, Miss. For six years, she served as a radio host and producer for Mississippi Public Broadcasting. In March 2013, Brent made a sharp career turn and became a stand-up comedian. In her brief career, she has featured on "Hart of the City" (Comedy Central), and tours as a feature act with her mentor, Rickey Smiley. She also appeared on Cedric the Entertainer's "Rock Your Brim" Comedy Tour.

Paul Fayard - 2

Originally from New Orleans, Paul Fayard is a Mississippi-based artist and art educator. Although he is comfortable working in oil, acrylic and watercolor with all subject matter, drawing is his first love and portraiture his favorite subject. He has received numerous scholarships and awards and his work is included in many private and corporate collections.

Sophie McNeil Wolf - 3

Sophie McNeil Wolf, Digital Media Manager for Mississippi Institutions for Higher Learning, loves the intersection of community, storytelling and learning. For the last 15 years, Wolf has worked in various facets of media, from newspapers to magazines to marketing/communications and has been on the ground floor of social media's rise. She is part of the duo behind popular media brand Find It In Fondren, highlighting Jackson's hip art district, with her husband, Paul Wolf.

Moderator: Anna Ehrgott, MAC Communications Director

Arts Education: Authentic Connections in a Virtual Environment



1 Michael Beattie - 1

Michael Beattie has served as President and Executive Director of the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra since 2004. Prior to that, he was Chief Operating Officer for the Louisville Orchestra. Before his work in arts administration, he led a 25-year career in full-time church music. He has been active with the American Guild of Organists on local and national leadership levels.



Tomeka Cheatham - 2

Tomeka Cheatham began working for the Craftsmen's Guild of

Mississippi in 1996 as an administrative assistant. She has advanced to the role of Interim Director, Chief Financial Officer, and Director of Membership. Her position includes guild management, maintenance of financial accounts, payroll, database management, assisting with festivals and daily operations.

Shelley Ritter - 3

Shelley Ritter is the Executive Director of the Delta Blues Museum in Clarksdale, Mississippi. Under her direction, the museum has been recognized nationally with a National Medal for Museum and Library Services and a National Arts & Humanities Youth Program Award. It has been recognized internationally with an induction to The Excellence Club, Europa Nostra. She has over twenty years of experience in museums.

Moderator: Charlotte Smelser, MAC Arts Education Director

The Folk Arts Apprenticeship Program: Experiences and Take-Aways



Robert Kimbrough Sr. - 1

Robert Kimbrough Sr. is the son of the late, great bluesman, Junior Kimbrough and the brother of the late, great bluesman, David Kimbrough Jr. He is a part of the original "Cotton Patch Soul Blues Boys" along with his father, his brother David and his brother Kenney Kimbrough. He carries on the Kimbrough Legacy "CPSB."

Samuel Long - 2

Sammy Long, a Greenville, Mississippi, native, has been a woodturner for 20 years. He is a member of the Mississippi Craftsmen's Guild and the Magnolia Woodturners Club, where he became a frequent demonstrator in the local club. He also teaches classes at the Mississippi Craftsmen's Guild and at the Appalachian Center for Crafts.

Brian Newman - 3

Brian Newman is a life-long central Mississippian. He has been playing in clay for the past 20 years. During the past two years, he has been working as a full-time potter as the owner of Hobo Pottery.

Libby Rae Watson - 4

Libby Rae Watson grew up in Pascagoula, Mississippi, and became captivated by blues music in her teens after stumbling across a songbook in a local music store. It was the beginning of a life-long infatuation of the music, the people who made it and the culture of her own state. She was mentored by the great Sam Chatmon who was the last surviving member of the Mississippi Sheiks.

Carolina Whitfield-Smith - 5

Carolina Whitfield-Smith is a pianist and teacher in Jackson, Miss. She started the Whitfield-Smith Piano Studio in 2002 and loves teaching piano students of all ages and backgrounds. She studies mountain dulcimer and djembe and is the grateful recipient of a Mississippi Arts Commission grant for studying advanced djembe/dudunba with her Master teacher, Baba Asante.

Moderator: Maria Zeringue, MAC Folk and Traditional Arts Director

Cooking and Coping: Gathering around the Virtual Table

Featuring Carol Puckett and Malcolm White of MPB's Deep South Dining Radio Show



Carol Puckett

Carol Puckett is co-host of *Deep South Dining*, a radio show that celebrates Southern food and culture.

She serves as Chair of the Mississippi Arts Commission. Carol also chairs the USA International Ballet Competition and serves on the boards of directors for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi, B.B. King Museum, GRAMMY Museum Mississippi and Tougaloo College. Formerly president of the Viking Hospitality Group for Viking Range Corporation, she is the founder of the Everyday Gourmet, a cooking school and gourmet retail store operating in Jackson and its companion store, the Everyday Gardener.



Malcolm White

Malcolm White is co-host of *Deep South Dining*, with Carol Puckett and recently retired Executive Director of the Mississippi Arts Commission.

Malcolm is a native Mississippian, an entrepreneur and a public servant. He calls the Belhaven neighborhood of Jackson and Old Town, Bay St. Louis home. When he is not seeking ephemeral landscapes and peculiar perspectives on ordinary subjects, he's eating lunch at Hal and Mal's or traveling the endless backroads promoting the Mississippi Story.