

# MISSISSIPPI ARTS COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT FY2020



## Who We Are

The Mississippi Arts Commission 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.

## Economic Impact of the Arts

According to a 2017 study (the latest data available) by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, arts and cultural production accounts for \$2,480,830,738 and 2.3% of the Mississippi economy, contributing 25,767 jobs.



**25,767**  
Jobs



**2.3%**  
Share of Total MS GDP



**\$2.4B**  
Value Added to MS Economy

## Supporting the Arts through Grants

### FY2020 Grants to Artists, Organizations & Schools

**275**  
Grants

**\$1.3M**  
Funds Awarded

**86**  
House Districts

**45**  
Senate Districts

*\*Does **not** include COVID-19-related grant funding. Please see accompanying COVID-19 Grant Report for this grant data.*

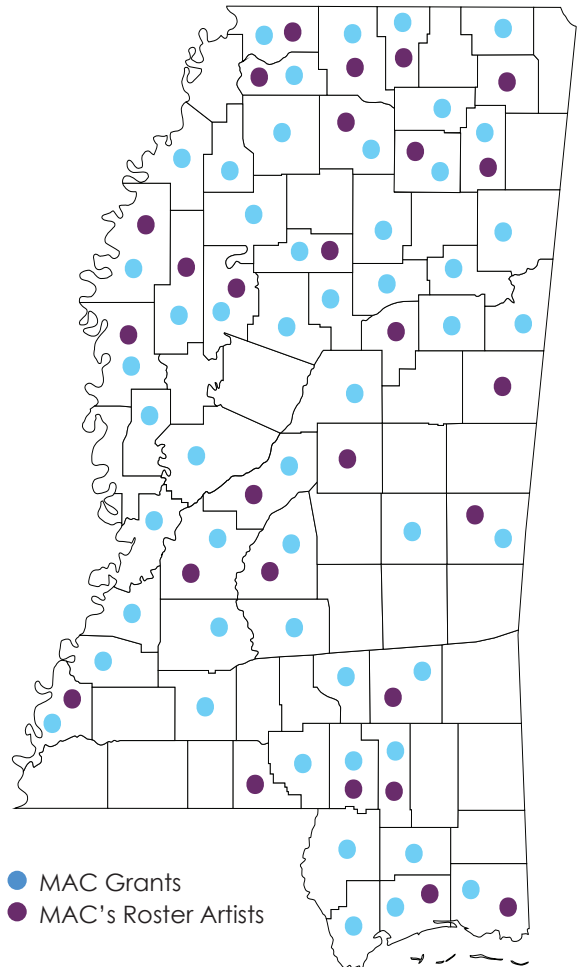
### Grants to Organizations



**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 to municipalities, libraries, nonprofits and schools.

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



### Grants to Individuals



**Artist Fellowships** of up to \$5,000 are awarded for artists achieving a high standard of artistic merit.

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

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



### Artist Roster

MAC's **Artist Roster** is a juried listing of nearly 100 artists and educational professionals who are available to perform or present their artform in communities around the state.

## Communicating the Story of the Arts in Mississippi

106K Website Hits



*Strategic Plan Pillar 1: Expand MAC's role as a catalyst and public supporter of the arts.*

MAC often shares arts stories and information through a variety of media. In response to COVID-19, the agency's messaging took on new importance. Along with sharing resources and COVID grant information, MAC created a video from quarantined Mississippi artists singing "[This Little Light of Mine](#)" to spread joy. It received more than 20,000 views on social media.



[Governor's Arts Awards](#), an annual event produced by MAC since 1988, honors outstanding artists, organizations and celebrates Mississippi's cultural legacy. Recipients in 2020 included Henry Danton, Steve Forbert, Jackson Southernaires, Richard Kelso, and Tougaloo College Art Collections.

MAC, along with its partners, unveiled seven [Mississippi Writers Trail](#) markers in FY2020 honoring Margaret Walker Alexander, Walker Percy, Shelby Foote, Elizabeth Spencer, Ida B. Wells, Tennessee Williams, and William Faulkner. This cultural trail project recognizes our state's accomplished literary artists.



[Mississippi Arts Hour](#) is a weekly arts interview radio show produced in partnership with Mississippi Public Broadcasting. In FY2020, MAC featured 50 artists on the broadcast including musicians Bobby Rush, Jimbo Mathis and Patrick Sansone as well as photographer Ashleigh Coleman and Fertile Ground project directors Salam Rida and Travis Crabtree.

[Mississippi Folklife](#) is an online journal dedicated to present-day folk and traditional arts in the state. In FY2020, it featured 15 articles.

## Convening & Offering Professional Development

300+ State Arts Conference Registrants

*Strategic Plan Pillar 2: Create opportunities to strengthen connections among artists and staff from cultural institutions.*

In response to constituent interest in networking and convening, MAC began hosting annual [Statewide Arts Conferences](#) in 2018. In FY2020, the conference was held in the State Capitol Building in October 2019 with more than 300 registrants. With a theme of the Arts + Living Well, the conference featured a dance performance and Wyatt Waters as keynote speaker.



## Invigorating & Expanding Lifelong Learning through the Arts

700+ Summer Institute Registrants



*Strategic Plan Pillar 3: Continue MAC's commitment to arts education and arts integration.*

[Mississippi Whole Schools](#) is MAC's statewide arts education program. In FY2020, 27 schools participated in the program, benefiting 13,677 students. Educators receive professional development in arts integration through the MWS Winter and Summer Institutes each year. The FY2020 Summer Institute was held virtually for the first time. More than 700 registered for the event, the most in MWS history.

[Poetry Out Loud](#), a poetry recitation contest 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 literature. In FY2020, 1,664 Mississippi students participated.

## Expanding and Diversifying Fiscal Resources

\$40K raised for Governor's Arts Awards 2020

*Strategic Plan Pillar 4: Expand resource capacity beyond annual appropriations.*

MAC regularly raises funds from private entities to support programs including [Mississippi Whole Schools](#), [Governor's Arts Awards](#) and [Mississippi Writers Trail](#). In FY2020, MAC raised more than \$40,000 for the Governor's Arts Awards and was awarded more than \$50,000 for the Mississippi Writers Trail.

