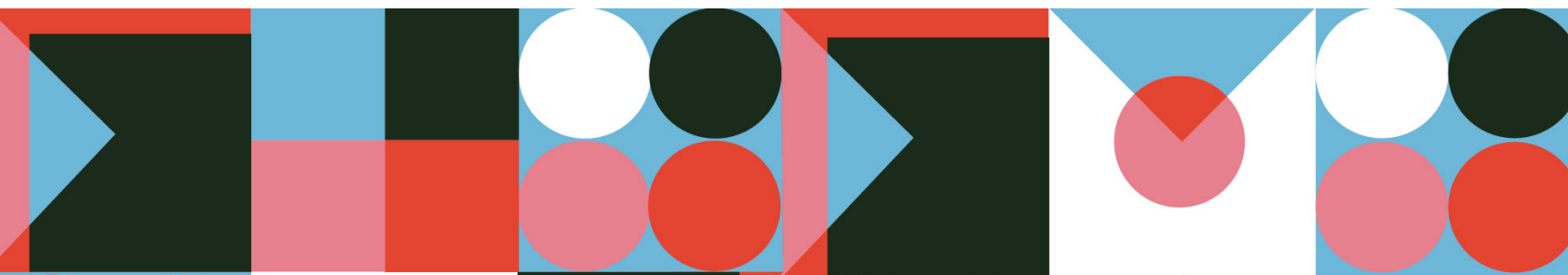


**MISSISSIPPI**  
ARTS COMMISSION

# **State Arts** Conference

October 11-12, 2023

PRESENTED BY **THE WESTIN**  
JACKSON



# Thank You To Our Partners

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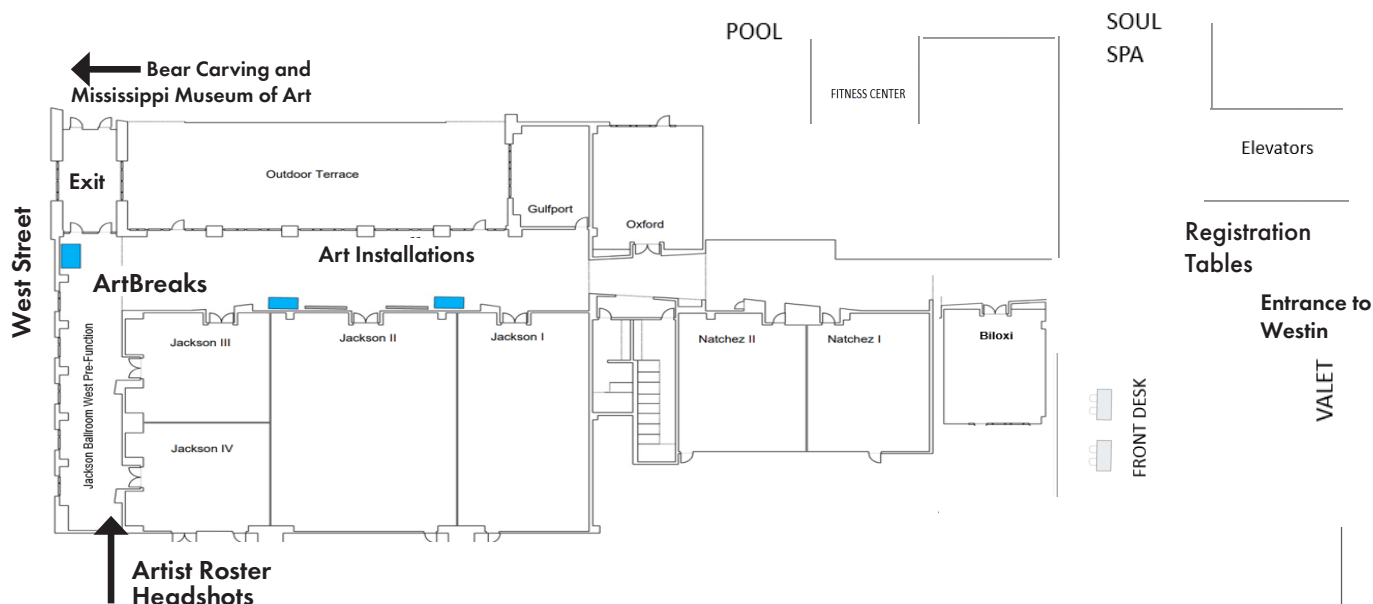
**MISSISSIPPI  
MUSEUM OF  
ART**

 **Mississippi Alliance  
for Arts Education**

**THE  
CITY  
WITH**  
*Soul*  
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## MEETING ROOM AND LOBBY FLOORPLAN



**MISSISSIPPI  
ARTS COMMISSION**

**State Arts Conference**  
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JACKSON

Estelle  
Southern Table

# WELCOME



Welcome to the 2023 State Arts Conference in Jackson, MS! I am thrilled to have you in my hometown and our capital city! It is no secret that I love my city very much and I know you will have an amazing time here too. During your stay, I hope you find time to explore some of the beautiful places, spaces, and delicious food Jackson has to offer.

This year is my first conference since joining the MAC team in January 2023. I have listened to you as I traveled this state and brought that feedback into the formatting of this year's conference - with more time to connect and multiple days! We have incredible sessions, panels, and events to inspire and entertain you. But I also want you to dive deep into the community of arts companions from across our beautiful and creative state.

While at the conference, I encourage you to explore The Westin Jackson and the beautiful artwork that fills the halls. And trust me, the Soul Spa is a MUST!

Thank you to The Westin Jackson for hosting us in their space this week. We also want to thank the Mississippi Museum of Art for hosting us in their Art Garden for our ArtTalk dinner on Wednesday night. A special thank you to Visit Jackson for assisting us with resources and support. Of course, we could not put this conference on without our incredible panelists, commissioners, presenters, and staff. I want to thank them all for their hard work to make this event so special. I lastly want to thank you for coming to participate in this event and making this conference a success!

Please do not hesitate to pull me aside during the next two days and make an introduction. I am excited to connect with each of you as we gather as a community to engage and connect.

**David Lewis**

Mississippi Arts Commission Executive Director



**State Arts Conference**

October 11-12, 2023

PRESENTED BY **THE WESTIN**  
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# State Arts Conference

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

### Registration begins at Noon

### SouthArts Presentation and Listening Session | 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Jackson 1 & 2

**Presenter: Charles Phaneuf, Vice President of Strategy for SouthArts**



Charles Phaneuf is an arts leader who has helped grow a variety of organizations, small and large, with a particular emphasis on community engagement, inclusion, and financial sustainability.

His career started at UNC-Chapel Hill where he was president of the student union and activities

board. While living in Washington, DC, he served as Associate Managing Director of Shakespeare Theatre Company during its expansion into the Harman Center for the Arts, and also helped found the Capital Fringe Festival and the Bohemian Caverns Jazz Orchestra. Charles returned to Raleigh, NC to become Executive Director of Raleigh Little Theatre, where he led a revitalization of the organization culminating in a

successful capital campaign. Under his leadership as President, the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County launched the first-ever Triangle-wide fundraiser for the arts (Big Night In for the Arts) with WRAL/WRAL.com, and partnered with Wake County on the \$1 million Wake County Nonprofit Arts Relief Fund.

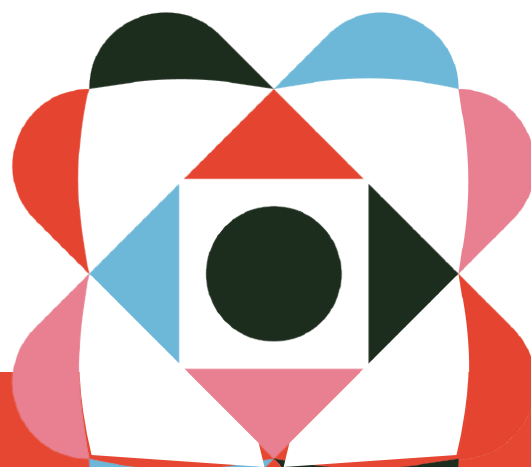
Charles has been named Tar Heel of the Week by the News and Observer (2018) and 40 Under 40 by the Triangle Business Journal (2014). He was selected as one of 19 People for 2019 by the Independent Weekly. He currently serves on the board of directors of Arts North Carolina, on the community committee of Dix Park, and is a past chair of the Friends of the Gregg Museum at NC State. He enjoys biking, golf and playing music, often with his wife Emily, who is also a musician.

South Arts is the regional arts organization serving the southeastern United States with a focus on increasing access to arts and culture, working in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, state arts agencies including the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC), and private funders. **Our mission: advancing Southern vitality through the arts.**

### Networking BreakOuts | 2:45 p.m.

#### Around Town

Meet us in Jackson 1 & 2 at 2:45 PM to find out which group you'll want to connect with and where in Jackson you'll head to for conversation. Connect with the people who do exactly what you do from all over the state! This is a time for you to get to know each other, talk about the triumphs and struggles that you have in your field and build relationships.



# State Arts Conference

## ArtTalk Dinner | 6:00 p.m.

**Location: Art Garden at the Mississippi Museum of Art**

The Rising Stars Fife and Drum Band will perform! Former Congressman Gregg Harper and General Nolen Bivens, President and CEO of Americans for the Arts (AFTA), will host a conversation about the arts locally and nationally. A cash bar will be available.

*If you paid for dinner for this event, please see a MAC staff member at the tables at the Art Garden to check-in and receive your wristband to allow you to go through the line to get food.*



The Rising Stars Fife  
and Drum Band



General Nolen Bivens



Former Congressman  
Gregg Harper

A special thank you to the  
Mississippi Museum of Art  
for hosting us at their facility.



## Late Night Activities | 8:00 p.m.



### ArtWalk – The Westin Jackson

Join us for a gallery stroll through the Westin's art collection and hear from a few of the artists themselves! Meet us in the lobby of the Westin at 8:00 p.m.



### Pumpkin Carving in the Westin Jackson Courtyard

Maria Zeringue and other MAC staffers will conduct a spooky pumpkin carving session in the courtyard at 8:00 p.m. Bring your own pumpkin to carve and your own tools.



Scan this QR Code for a direct link to MAC social media, our newsletter, State Arts Conference Program updates, around town information, and more!



**Westin's Wireless  
Network:**

**Westin-Meetings  
PW: gowestin123**

**Arts.ms.gov | #MSARTSCON2023**

# State Arts Conference

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12**

**Registration at 8:00 a.m. | Welcome at 9:15 a.m. in Jackson 1**



**Adam Trest**

**KEYNOTE | 9:30 – 10:00 a.m.**

**Location: Jackson 1 & 2**

Adam Trest loves to tell stories, not in the traditional method of a storyteller, but through a paintbrush. Trest has worked in the arts since 2010 as a set designer, arts educator, product designer, and studio artist. More recently, he has also fallen into the world of illustration, where his work on *The Lantern House*, a children's book by Erin Napier, earned him recognition as a New York Times Bestselling Illustrator. He has told stories through collections at the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art and the Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Experience, and his original works are found in the homes of collectors worldwide.

**Announcements - David Lewis | 10:00 a. m.**



**ArtBreak 1**

**The Rising Stars Fife and Drum Band | 10:15 – 10:30 a.m.**

The Rising Stars Fife and Drum Band, led by Sharde Thomas and Chris Mallory of Coldwater, MS, presents a mixture of folk, blues, pop, and gospel in the traditional style of fife and drum music that has been performed in the North Mississippi Hill Country for generations. The Rising Stars' appearance will integrate performance and discussion of the history and evolution of fife and drum music.

## BreakOut Session 1



**Creating and Maintaining Public Art | 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.**

**Location: Jackson 1 & 2**

**Panelists:** Lawson King, Cleveland-based sculptor and muralist; Nan Sanders, Painter, Mathews-Sanders Sculpture Garden; Hector Boldo, Hattiesburg-based painter and muralist; Marlo Dorsey, Visit Hattiesburg



**Moderator:** Melody Moody Thortis, Director of Strategic Impact, Community Foundation for Mississippi

The power of place-based public art has been harnessed by many community-focused artists to collaborate with locals to tell the stories of their communities, grow local tourism, and offer opportunities for increased community dialog. Learn how artists and community members have developed collaborations with municipal leaders and other partners to create and maintain meaningful and transformative public art in their communities and how you can too!



# State Arts Conference

## BreakOut Session 1 *continued*

### Art/Work Balance | 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Location: Jackson 4



**Panelists:** Ali Dinkins, actor; Aa'Keela Hudnall, musician; Catherine Simone Gray, writer

**Moderator:** Thabi Moyo, Production and Workforce Manager for the Mississippi Film Office and Co-Founder/CEO of Magnolia Sunset Markets

Keeping the day job is often non-negotiable for artists. In this workshop, we will examine the ways in which artists balance the demands of their ever-overflowing plates - family, jobs, etc. – with the need and drive to create art.



### Building Creative Community with an Individual Project Grant 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Location: Natchez 1

**Panelists:** Alexis Noble, The Mash Up; Blake Barnes, Jackson Comics; J. Janice Coleman, Fannie Lou Hamer cotton sack quilts

**Moderator:** Lauren Rhoades, Mississippi Arts Commission



Are you an artist interested in developing an arts-based, community-oriented project? You may be eligible for a MAC individual project grant. These \$2,000 grants support a wide range of artistic projects with high social impact, like dance exhibitions, artistic showcases, musical performances, and more. In this session, hear from three successful individual project grantees whose projects exemplify the potential of this grant.

### Hindsight is 20/20: Making Communications ADA Accessible | 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Location: Natchez 2



**Presenter:** Sophie McNeil Wolf, Director of Communications and Data, Community Foundation for Mississippi

As communication becomes increasingly digital, especially post-COVID, how do we ensure our messages are accessible to everyone, including those who may interact with our content in a different way? Sophie McNeil Wolf will discuss best practices for alt-text, hashtags, inclusive design, PDFs, website plug-ins, closed captions and more. Participants will leave with immediate takeaways to refine their work and make content readily available to their communities.

### Creative Writing Workshop | 10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Location: Oxford



**Presenter:** Exodus Brownlow, MAC Fellowship Recipient

Designed for creatives, this interactive session will propose a writing prompt to participants with time to respond. Participants will be given an opportunity to share and discuss their compositions with the group. Exodus Brownlow, a Mississippi Arts Commission 2024 Fellowship recipient, will facilitate the discussion and provide feedback for those who share their stories. (Paper and writing utensils provided.)

# State Arts Conference

**Lunch on Your Own Around Town | 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

## ArtBreak 2

### Andrew Dillon Band | 1:00 – 1:15 p.m.

The Andrew Dillon Band consists of Andrew Dillon and his father, Sherman Lee Dillon. Andrew Dillon is an artist, performer, and educator born and raised in Jackson, MS, who is passionate about music through social change. Sherman Lee Dillon is an artist and performer born in Meadville, MS, who has performed with Rufus Thomas, Sam Myers, B.B. King, Koko Taylor, and Bobby Rush. Andrew Dillon is currently on MAC's Teaching Artist Roster.



## BreakOut Session 2

### Let's Discuss Social Media | 1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

**Location:** Jackson 1 & 2

**Presenter:** Landon Bryant, Social Media Influencer and Arts Educator



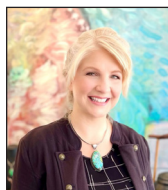
Are you struggling to create engaging social media content? Social Media Influencer Landon Bryant will guide you on the best ways to engage with your audience, create content, work with influencers, and other aspects of social media that artists and arts organizations need to know.

### The Business of Art | 1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

**Location:** Jackson 4

**Panelists:** Andrew Cary Young, owner of Pearl River Glass Studio, Keri Davis, owner of Pacesetter Gallery, Ellen Langford, painter.

**Moderator:** Joseph Donovan, Director of Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Mississippi Development Authority



This session is geared towards artists in various mediums who are currently (or working towards) making a living at their craft. Many struggle initially due to a lack of business skills or training, and they might not realize the resources available to support them in this endeavor. Attendees can expect an overview of the art business from artists who have run their own businesses for decades and where to find resources and support.

### Independent Filmmaking: Why Mississippi Can't Wait | 1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

**Location:** Natchez 1

**Presenter:** Maximus Wright, Founder of the JXN Film Festival



Filmmaking offers a unique opportunity for creating a narrative. Controlling one's narrative is singularly the most important aspect of protecting one's brand. What is Mississippi's brand, and how does the rest of the world see us? Learn how filmmaking is an opportunity to regain control of our narrative and why it is essential that we tell our own stories.



# State Arts Conference

## BreakOut Session 2 *continued*

### Working with Boards that Work | 1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Location: Natchez 2



**Presenter:** George Bassi

Not all boards are alike, but all boards should serve your organization's mission. It takes work to get your board working toward your mission through an effective onboarding process, discussing fundraising objectives, and making meetings more effective. This workshop will look at the roles and responsibilities of board members and how to listen to and motivate your board to make your organization succeed.

### ArtBreak 3

#### Traditional Irish Dancing | 2:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Jackson Irish Dancers was founded in 1998 and has been performing ever since. The group performs, teaches, and celebrates traditional Irish dancing in various forms – modern solo dancing and traditional (sean-nós) solo dancing, set dancing, and céilí dancing, the fun, interactive group dances that are ancestors of American contra dance and square dancing. They partner with another instructor for solo dance classes for children and adults. Their performance will reflect a variety of those styles.

Get more information at [www.jacksonirishdancers.org](http://www.jacksonirishdancers.org) or call 601-291-3378, or come see us at CelticFest Mississippi ([www.celticfestms.org](http://www.celticfestms.org)) this Saturday, October 14.



## BreakOut Session 3

### Improve Through Improv | 2:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Jackson 1 & 2

**Presenter:** The Royal Y'all



This workshop is designed to equip participants with improvisational skills to help improve performance in teamwork, communication, creativity, and the mental flexibility to adapt and solve problems.

# State Arts Conference

## BreakOut Session 3 *continued*

### The Real Meaning of the Day of the Dead | 2:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Jackson 3



**Presenter:** Cazateatro Bilingual Theatre Group

The Day of the Dead, known as “Día de Muertos” in Spanish. We will introduce the elements of this celebration and the history of the Day of the Dead. In this workshop, you’ll learn about the traditions and meanings surrounding “Día de Muertos.”

### Shout It From the Rooftops - Let Others Tell Your Story | 2:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Jackson 4



**Presenter:** Amanda Wells, Founder, The Tell Agency

Whether you’re an artist looking to level up or an arts organization doing great work, the press is some of the most powerful word-of-mouth marketing you can gain. This session will help you feel more confident in pitching your story, gaining earned media, and sharing it with the masses. Take your fresh ideas and let TV, newspaper, radio, magazines, and podcast hosts shout your story from the rooftops.

### Is an MFA the Only Way? | 2:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Natchez 1

**Panelists:** Stephen “5th Child” Brown, hip hop artist and producer; Melanie Deas, dramaturg and nonprofit leader; T.K. Lee, poet and playwright; Adrienne Domnick, multidisciplinary artist

**Moderator:** Leslie Barker, Mississippi Arts Commission



Masters in Fine Arts (MFA) programs have grown increasingly popular as a way for emerging artists and writers to learn from experts, network with peers, and hone their craft. At the same time, there are many other paths for artists to take in order to reach their artistic career goals. In this panel, four successful artists will discuss the factors they considered when deciding whether or not to pursue an MFA.

### Music Is My Business: Gain insight on career development and focus strategies to build and monetize your music career | 2:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Natchez 2

**Presenter:** Virginia P. Brick, Music Industry Professional



This panel is modeled from the 15 years of real-world experience and wisdom of Virginia P. Brick as a music industry professional based in Nashville, TN. She will share practical tips and strategies to help navigate your career in the music industry as an independent artist. This panel conversation will also explore discussions on different income streams for indie artists, specifically focusing on sync licensing for TV/film with your music. Come with questions and leave empowered with new focused strategies and direction for this next season of your music career.

# State Arts Conference

## ALL DAY THURSDAY EVENTS



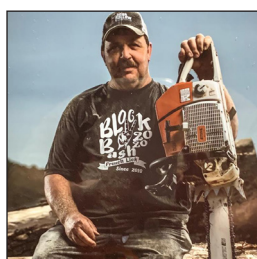
### Collaboration Through Quilting in Jackson 3 from 10:30-11:45 a.m and the Oxford Room for the afternoon

Join quilter and art therapist Ravin Lovett to create your very own piece of the first-ever Arts Conference quilt. Ravin will kick off the day with a quilting demonstration and conversation about how art can heal and bring us together. Throughout the day, you can stop by and create a square that expresses your view of "Collaboration in the Arts."



### Artist Roster Headshots with Jesse Johnson

The Mississippi Arts Commission has engaged a professional photographer to provide artists with either new headshots or photos of up to three completed works for their portfolio. Each artist participating reserved a 15-minute timeslot in the weeks leading up to the conference. This photo session is free for participants, but registration for this session is required in advance.

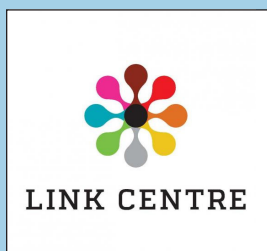


### Bear Carving at Thalia Mara Hall

When the tornadoes hit Rolling Fork in March 2023, the iconic public art symbols of carved bears weathered the storm with some bumps and bruises. Only one bear was lost in the storm. The bears are carved each year during Rolling Fork's legendary Great Delta Bear Affair Festival. To help Rolling Fork reclaim their lost bear and to drum up excitement for the return of the festival on October 28, 2023, the Mississippi Arts Commission is partnering with Mississippi's Lower Delta Partnership and Entergy to have a new bear carved LIVE during the State Arts Conference. You can watch bear carver, Dayton Scoggins, work his magic throughout the conference on the West Street side of Thalia Mara Hall, just across from the Westin. You might even see him from the conference hallway or from your hotel room!

## ArtActivations

To bring artful expression and life to our conference, we have enlisted the help of some of our local arts organizations to create colorful and engaging backdrops to line the halls of The Westin Jackson. Please take photos with them and share them on your social media using the hashtag **#MSArtsCon2023**



# Schedule at a Glance

## WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11

- NOON.....**Registration**
- 1:00 p.m. ....**SouthArts Presentation and Listening Session**  
*Jackson 1 & 2*
- 2:45 p.m.....**Networking BreakOut Sessions**  
*Around Town*
- 6:00 p.m.....**ArtTalk Dinner**  
*Art Garden at the Mississippi Museum of Art*
- 8:00 p.m.....**Additional Activities**
- ArtWalk  
*The Westin Jackson*
  - Bring Your Own Pumpkin, and tools for Pumpkin Carving  
*The Westin Jackson Courtyard*

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12

- 8:00 a.m.....**Registration**
- 9:15 - 9:30 a.m. ....**Welcome - David Lewis**
- 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. ...**Keynote - Adam Trest**  
*Jackson 1 & 2*
- 10:00 - 10:15 a.m....**Announcements - David Lewis**
- 10:15 - 10:30 a.m....**ArtBreak 1**
- The Rising Stars Fife and Drum Band
- 10:30 - 11:45 a.m....**BreakOut 1**
- Creating and Maintaining Public Art  
*Jackson 1 & 2*
  - Art/Work Balance  
*Jackson 4*
  - Building Creative Community with an Individual Project Grant  
*Natchez 1*
  - Hindsight is 20/20: Making Communications ADA Accessible  
*Natchez 2*
  - Creative Writing Workshop  
*Oxford*
- 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. **Lunch on Your Own Around Town**

- 1:00 - 1:15 p.m. ....**ArtBreak 2**
- Andrew Dillon Band
- 1:15 - 2:30 p.m. ....**BreakOut 2**
- Let's Discuss Social Media  
*Jackson 1 & 2*
  - The Business of Art  
*Jackson 4*
  - Independent Filmmaking: Why Mississippi Can't Wait  
*Natchez 1*
  - Working with Boards that Work  
*Natchez 2*
- 2:30 - 2:45 p.m.....**ArtBreak 3**
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- 2:45 - 4:00 p.m. ....**BreakOut 3**
- Improve Through Improv  
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*Jackson 4*
  - Is an MFA the Only Way?  
*Natchez 1*
  - Music Is My Business: Gain insight into career development and focus strategies to build and monetize your music career!  
*Natchez 2*

### All Day Thursday Events:

- Collaboration Through Quilting with Ravin Lovett
- Artist Roster Headshots with Jesse Johnson  
Advanced sign up required!
- Bear Carving with The Great Delta Bear Affair Festival in Rolling Fork at Thalia Mara Hall