



2024
Governor's
ARTS
AWARDS



THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 8, 2024
6:00 PM

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6:00 p.m.

TWO MISSISSIPPI MUSEUMS

Craig H. Neilsen Auditorium
222 North Street | Jackson, Mississippi

Host

DANIELLA OROPEZA

Welcome

DAVID LEWIS

Executive Director
Mississippi Arts Commission

*Presentation
of Awards*

Mississippi's Governor

**THE HONORABLE
TATE REEVES**

and

FIRST LADY ELEE REEVES

*Video
Tributes*

**MOSAIC
MEDIA, INC.**

Music

THE ARTS AWARDS COMBO

led by **RAPHAEL SEMMES** (bass)

with **BARRY LEACH** (guitar)

and **BILL PERRY** (keyboard)

This program will be broadcast on the *Mississippi Arts Hour* on Mississippi Public Broadcasting's Think Radio on Sunday, February 25 at 5:00 p.m.

MPB TV will broadcast the program on Friday, February 16, 7:30 p.m., Sunday, February 18, 4:30 p.m., and Thursday, February 22, 2:00 p.m. on Mississippi Public Broadcasting Television.



2024 *Recipients*

PETER ZAPLETAL

Excellence in Performing Arts

100 MEN HALL

Arts in Community

CEDRIC BURNSIDE

Excellence in Music

BRENT FUNDERBURK

Excellence in Visual Arts and Education

EARL POOLE BALL

Lifetime Achievement



2024 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS

THE SIGNIFICANCE

Since 1988, the Mississippi Arts Commission has proudly partnered with the Governor's Office to present the Governor's Arts Awards, given annually in recognition of those who have made significant and lasting contributions to the arts in Mississippi. Tonight we honor the extraordinary creative achievement of this year's recipients whilst also celebrating the outsized impact of art (and artists) on the expansion of our cultural horizons and the enrichment of our communities.



DANIELLA OROPEZA

Host

Daniella Oropeza is the Morning Anchor for WTVA 9 News TODAY. You can watch her every weekday morning. Previously, she worked as a reporter and evening anchor.

Daniella has shown versatility in her work and stories during her career at WTVA 9 News. From coverage throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic or learning first hand how residents in Jackson, Mississippi dealt without clean water for days, to reuniting a Mexican family with the firefighter that saved their baby by reporting in Spanish, she will do what it takes to give a voice to those who are voiceless. When she is not at work, she serves her community as an advisory board member of the Salvation Army in Tupelo. She also helps promote Forest, MS - based El Pueblo, which is a group that provides professional, low-cost humanitarian and family-based immigration legal services.

Daniella graduated from the University of Mississippi's School of Journalism and New Media. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Spanish and a specialization in Public Relations.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Marie Sanderson, Chair | Ocean Springs

Jordan Perry, Vice Chair | Jackson

Frank Bordeaux | Gulfport

Dotty Graham | Meridian

Laura Howell | Leland

Julie Martin | Meridian

Ada McGrevey | Decatur

Joanna McNeel | Madison



Becky Montague | Hattiesburg

Scott Naugle | Pass Christian

Frances Nelson | Madison

Joe Rankin | Jackson

Verna Ransom | Indianola

Julie Shepherd | McComb

Jamie Lincoln Ward | Madison

2024 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS

NINA PARIKH



Nina Parikh is the director of the Mississippi Film Office, where she has worked for 25 years. She studied filmmaking at New York University and the University of Southern Mississippi and has worked extensively as a producer. Her credits include the Mississippi-made film, "Ballast," which won two awards at the 2009 Sundance Film Festival. Nina is deeply involved in the community as a co-founder of both the Crossroads Film Festival & Society and the Mississippi Film Alliance, a non-profit that supports indigenous filmmaking. She also serves on the boards of the Association of Film Commissioners International, South Arts, the Mississippi Book Festival, and Creative Mississippi. In addition to her role as a producer for TEDxJackson, she currently teaches film production at Milsaps College.

JOHN T. EDGE



John T. Edge of Oxford, Mississippi, hosts the SEC Network and Hulu television show *TrueSouth* and serves *Garden & Gun* as a columnist. Twice winner of the MFK Fisher Distinguished Writing Award, he wrote *The Potlikker Papers: A Food History of the Modern South*. Winner of the 2018 nonfiction prize from the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters, Edge was elected to the Georgia Writer's Hall of Fame in 2019. Edge teaches narrative nonfiction in the low-residency MFA program at the University of Georgia. Founding Director of the Southern Foodways Alliance, he directs the Mississippi Lab and serves as writer-in-residence for the Department of Writing and Rhetoric – all at the University of Mississippi.

Photo credit: Jason Thrasher

The Jury

2024 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS

MELANIE DEAS



Melanie Deas has worked as an arts manager, writer, director, designer, educator, translator, and dramaturg across the United States for more than three decades, though her performance career began about twenty years before that. After spending too much time trying to choose between making art and managing art, she is now doing both--as well as helping others make their own art possible. Almost 22 years after leaving Mississippi for college (Harvard) and grad school (Yale School of Drama), Melanie returned to her hometown of Tupelo in January 2007, to serve as Executive Director of Link Centre. In this role she puts the full range of her liberal arts education and theater experience to good use meeting the ever-changing responsibilities of managing a multi-tenant arts and social service facility that is home to three performance venues, an art gallery, a commercial kitchen, as well as offices and meeting space. In her spare time Melanie serves on local, state, and national boards ranging from the Tupelo Arts Council to the Mississippi Humanities Council to the ACLU National Board where she represents the Mississippi affiliate. She is a presenter, moderator, and trainer for South Arts, the Nonprofit Centers Network, and other arts and advocacy organizations.

The Jury

SHANINUN PITTMAN



Born and raised in Columbia, Mississippi, Shaninun Pittman has called the Mississippi Gulf Coast home for the past 19 years. He is an angel investor, both founder and CEO of the Mississippi City-based venture capital, Baristocracy LLC. When he is not writing or otherwise engaging with fellow dance theater Mississippi (dtMS) cohorts in the collective creation of compelling and new choreographic productions, Shaninun works strategically behind-the-scenes to secure funding for underfunded and underserved arts initiatives throughout the region and state. An active member with wishes upon one day becoming board president of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce, Shaninun lives in the city of Pass Christian where he also serves as chair of the Pass Christian Chamber of Commerce. He is currently volunteering his time at Biloxi Little Theatre.

2024 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS



PETER ZAPLETAL

EXCELLENCE IN PERFORMING ARTS

Peter Zapletal, grew up in former Czechoslovakia, recognized as the world center of modern puppetry. After graduating with a Master's Degree in Puppetry from the Academy of the Performing Arts in Prague, he joined the professional puppet theatre in Zilina, Slovakia. Soon afterwards, he and his family emigrated to New York, where he and his wife, Jarmila, immediately started to produce puppet performances.

By 1970 he was recognized in a New York Times article as a talent to watch. But his path took a turn south literally and he moved to Jackson, Mississippi, where he joined the local PBS station as a puppeteer in residence. During the next 32 years, he created many instructional and special programs with and without puppets. His instructional programs were seen in classrooms across the United States. Special programs, from *Beauty and the Beast* to *Steadfast Tin Soldier* with Burl Ives to *Bolero* (a ballet special), were broadcast by PBS stations.

Zapletal garnered more than 50 national awards, among them five Emmy Awards for *Ticktock Minutes*, the Silver Circle Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences for 25 years of excellence in television puppetry, and the Puppeteers of America Award for high standards and continued excellence in puppetry.

In addition to his television work, Zapletal served as the Artistic Director for Puppet Arts Theatre until his recent retirement. He and his wife, Jarmila, also produced many shows that Puppet Arts Theatre toured throughout the Southeast, offering magical and exciting theatrical experiences. As he likes to say, "without my wife's help, the puppets would run around naked." Those tours took him and the company from Southaven in the north Mississippi to Gulfport in the south, from Vicksburg in the west to Meridian in the east, and everywhere in between. In Tupelo, Oxford, Laurel, Hattiesburg, Biloxi, or Poplarville, if there were schools with an interest in bringing live performances, Puppet Arts Theatre was there.

Zapletal's other professional activities include stage directing Gian Carlo Menotti's *The Telephone* and *The Medium*, operas with Opera South at Jackson State University, directing *Hansel & Gretel* and *The Golem* with the Millsaps Players at Millsaps College, serving as President of Union Internationale de la Marionette - USA, Inc., Artistic Director for three National Festivals of the Puppeteers of America, and as Artistic Coordinator for the 1980 World Puppetry Festival at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, in Washington, D.C.

2024 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS



100 MEN HALL

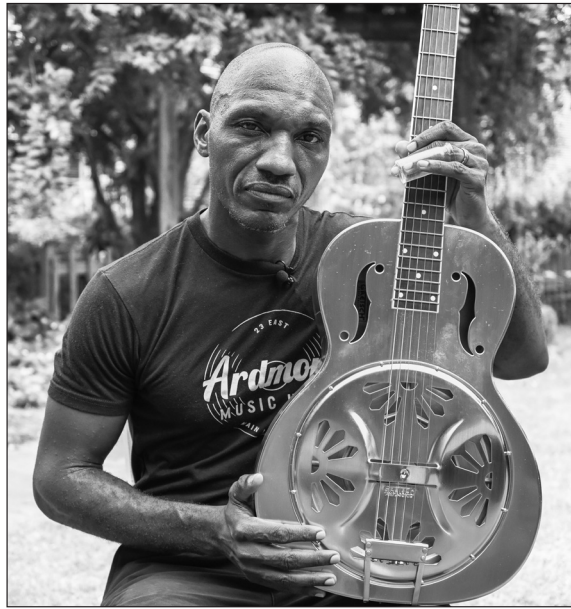
ARTS IN COMMUNITY

The 100 Men Hall was built by and for the African American community of Bay Saint Louis, MS. Until the 1960s, the African American population in Mississippi and other places in the South were denied access to burial and medical insurance. However, 12 civic-minded African American men in Bay Saint Louis came together to form a benevolent society (1894) to care for their community. From the nonprofit organization grew a desire for a place to gather and celebrate all life events, and the 100 Men Hall was built (1922). The Hall became the epicenter of Black life and culture for the MS Gulf Coast, allowing talented artists and musicians excluded from other venues an exhibition space while supporting cooperative economics. Over the decades, the Hall

has attracted legendary musicians such as James Brown, Etta James, and Ray Charles as a stop on the “Chitlin’ Circuit.” Significantly, it is one of the few physical landmarks still standing on the Mississippi Blues Trail, a rare African American landmark in the South, and today operates as a living museum and testament to its past, present, and future.

Rachel Dangermond purchased the Hall in 2018 and resurrected the (1894) 501 (c)(3) nonprofit. She was inspired to continue the tradition of using art to tell stories by showcasing a variety of performance, spoken, visual, and literary work while continuing the sacred act of presenting live music on its historic stage. The Hall celebrates and elevates cultural diversity throughout the year with events like A Soulful Christmas, Juneteenth Jubilees, Dia de los Muertos, The Matzo Ball, and more. Every Second Saturday, the 100 Men Hall transforms into a haven for writers: The Writing Room. It’s a unique assembly where writers convene to craft their tales within a place steeped in its own stories. At the helm of this creative vessel is author-in-residence Ellen Morris Prewitt.

2024 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS



CEDRIC BURNSIDE

EXCELLENCE IN MUSIC

North Mississippi Hill Country blues musician Cedric Burnside was born in Memphis on August 26, 1978. For three decades, Burnside gained rich experience performing in the Hill Country blues tradition, notably playing drums for many years with his grandfather, Hill Country blues legend R.L. Burnside (1926-2005). Cedric later became active as a vocalist, guitarist, and songwriter for work that both honored local traditions and broke new ground musically.

He grew up in the Holly Springs area in a large household headed by R.L. Burnside and his wife Alice Mae, the parents of Cedric's mother, Linda. His father, Calvin Jackson (1961-2015), began playing drums and recording with R.L. Burnside in his mid-teens.

Cedric Burnside's first exposure to blues was via house parties hosted by his grandfather, including his father and his uncles, Daniel and Joseph Burnside. Other family members, including his uncles Junior, Dexter, Duwayne, and Garry (who is close in age to Cedric), would also perform occasionally at the house parties. Cedric was also immersed in rural traditions, helping the family raise crops and tend to their animals.

In the early 1990s, the Burnside family moved to a home in Chulahoma, southwest of Holly Springs, next door to "Junior's Place," a juke joint run by Junior Kimbrough. Until this point, Burnside mainly had played drums on buckets, pans, and cans; he now took every opportunity to play the drum kit in the club. In the mid-1990s, Calvin Jackson moved to the Netherlands, and Cedric Burnside became the regular drummer for his grandfather's band. In addition to playing at Junior Kimbrough's, Cedric Burnside began touring nationally and internationally with his grandfather, who had gained fame via his recordings on Fat Possum Records. He appeared on multiple R.L. Burnside albums and played drums on the recordings of other artists from the region, including the North Mississippi Allstars, his uncle Duwayne, and Kenny Brown (R.L. Burnside's guitarist); he also toured with Brown as a duo.

His first album was *Burnside Exploration* (2006), recorded with Garry, followed by two collaborations with Lightnin' Malcolm. As the Cedric Burnside Project, he recorded *The Way I Am* (2012), featuring rap lyrics by his brother Cody (1982-2012), and the Grammy-nominated *Descendants of Hill Country* (2015), featuring Garry Burnside and Trenton Ayers, son of Hill Country blues veteran Earl "Little Joe" Ayers. His first solo album was the Grammy-nominated *Benton County Relic* (2018), followed by the critically acclaimed and GRAMMY-winning album *I Be Trying* (2021), which features him on guitar and mixes traditional hill country sounds with new compositions.

Burnside gained acclaim among blues fans for his powerful and enthusiastic drumming, as well as his off-stage charm and poise. He is the recipient of multiple Blues Music Awards and Living Blues Awards. Burnside was in his early 40s in 2021 when he was named a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) National Heritage Fellow. Shortly after receiving the NEA National Heritage Fellowship, he began appearing in the touring musical *Voices of Mississippi*, based on the fieldwork of folklorist William Ferris. The musical, staged at Lincoln Center in early 2022, celebrates Burnside's and other younger artists' deep roots in Hill Country traditions.

2024 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS



BRENT FUNDERBURK

EXCELLENCE IN VISUAL ARTS AND EDUCATION

Brent Funderburk is a William L. Giles Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Mississippi State University where he served as Art Department head and taught for 36 years. He has been recognized with the University's highest academic, teaching and research honors, including the Southeastern Conference Faculty Excellence Award (2016), the John Grisham Teaching Award, the Ralph E. Powe Faculty Research Award, and the Burlington Northern Faculty Excellence Award, among others.

An artist known for his exuberantly-hued watermedia paintings as well as energetic teaching and lectures, Brent Funderburk is a Charlotte, North Carolina native who has worked as a teacher/administrator for three universities in three states over 40 years. From a robust life of art practice and travel, Funderburk has researched, produced, exhibited and lectured passionately, working from life and in the studio in Starkville, Mississippi. He has presented 34 one-person exhibitions across the U.S. and has been represented by galleries in Jackson, Atlanta, Charlotte, New Orleans and Memphis (etc.), with work in public and private collections across the U.S. and abroad, such as the Mississippi Museum of Art, Ogden Museum of Southern Art, and Memphis-Brooks Museum of Art.

Funderburk's artwork has been juried into over 100 regional, national and international shows, with numerous awards, such as the International Society of Experimental Artists Award, the Holbein Artist Award, and Isabey-Savoir Faire Award, at the National Watercolor Society 100th International Open Exhibition (San Pedro, CA, 2020), the Artistic Excellence Special Award I at the Missouri International Exhibition (Barcelona, Spain, St. Louis, MO, 2020), the Juror's Special Award and Certificate of Merit at the 6th Fabriano International Prize (Fabriano, Italy, 2020), and had work that toured seven Chinese museums in the Shenzhen International Watercolour Biennial (2015-16).

Brent Funderburk's work has been published widely, in national/international periodicals such as *American Artist*, *Artists Magazine*, *Creative Quarterly: The Journal of Art and Design*, *Studio Visit*, *Watercolor Artist Magazine*, *Southwest Art* and *Splash: The Best of Watercolor*. Funderburk's painting "One to One" was the chosen as cover art for the 2022 *Splash* annual publication.

In 2010, Funderburk was named the Official Artist of the USA International Ballet Competition in Jackson, MS.

Regarded for his depth of research and enthusiastic delivery, Funderburk has presented talks to over 100 museums, universities and to professional organizations across the country. He curated and lectured with the exhibition "Ecstasy- The Mystical Landscapes of Walter Anderson" that toured four U.S. museums (2008-2010), as well as spoken about Anderson in association with the Smithsonian Institute exhibit "Everything I See is New and Strange" (2003). In addition to presenting his multi-media lectures, such as "A Halcyon Day! A Day in the Life of Walter Anderson", "Deep Harvest", and "The Beathing Eye", he has presented illustrated lectures on 20th Century visionary modern American artists such as Will Henry Stevens, Robert Henri and Edward Reep, on subjects such as American watercolor, art and architecture, and often about his own art.

Funderburk has taught courses dedicated to the vision of Walter Anderson; "Sea Earth Sky" ('80s), "Encounters" ('90s), and "Walter Inglis Anderson and American Art" (2018), has led field classes in U.S. National Parks, and has taught semester courses in Vicenza (2007) and Rome (2016), Italy.

The artist is married to dancer/choreographer Deborah Wyatt Funderburk, a retired university professor in Dance at Mississippi State University. They have two adult sons, and reside in Starkville, Mississippi.

2024 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS



EARL POOLE BALL

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Earl Poole Ball (Jr.) (March 12, 1941) is a pianist, singer-songwriter, music producer and actor. His musical work spans the Americana, Country, Gospel, and Rockabilly genres. He is best known for the 20 years he spent touring and recording with Johnny Cash. With a passion for music and live performing as his driving force, Ball befriended everyone along the way and took odd jobs that were necessary to propel him throughout his legendary musical career.

Ball hails from Foxworth, Mississippi, where his aunt Kathryn Ball taught him how to play the piano at the Foxworth First Baptist Church. Later, he learned how to play popular country and early rockabilly songs on the radio and was a part of a local Columbia band called the Hill Cats. Ball auditioned for Jimmy Swan's country dance band and got the job. He hitch-hiked back and forth to Hattiesburg to play on television on the McCaffrey Supermarket-sponsored *Jimmy Swan Show*, where he met a young Eddie Hodges and family. He performed in the local bars while in high school and supplemented his music career by selling Fuller Brushes door to door.

At age 20, his father gave him a bus ticket to his chosen destination of Houston, Texas, where he honed his craft after meeting Mickey Gilley, who showed him the ropes of survival in the world of honky-tonk piano players.

In Houston, Ball played with his band, The Shades, where a young Glen Campbell sat in with the band. Ball worked 4 or 5 nights in the bars and sold sewing machines in the day, which allowed him to finally buy a car after three years. Ball then traveled to Southern California, where he looked up his pals Eddie Hodges and Dick Stubbs. He found work in the lively

country music scene in clubs and on local television. Studio work soon followed, and he was called for many recording sessions at Columbia, RCA, and Capitol Records. The newly founded Academy of Country Music named Ball 'Piano Player of the Year' in 1967 and 1968.

While working for Cliffie Stone's Central Songs Music, Ball and his old friend Glen Campbell recorded the song *Try a Little Kindness* which became a number #1 hit.

In 1969 Ball was offered an executive position with Capitol Records as Assistant to the Vice-President of Country Music, the legendary Ken Nelson. In addition to his other duties, Ball often filled in for Nelson and produced the memorable Merle Haggard album, *Tribute to the World's Best Damn Fiddle Player* (My Salute to Bob Wills).

In 1972, Ball was made a full producer and transferred to the Nashville office, where he took over the responsibility of producing the hottest act in country music at that time, Freddie Hart. He followed up Hart's smash *Easy Loving* with a #1 hit for six weeks. *My Hang-Up is You* was followed by two more #1 singles and albums.

Ball continued to play recording sessions as a pianist. The great songwriter Harlan Howard recommended Ball to Johnny Cash, by having him listen to Ball perform on a song for Howard. Cash liked what he heard in the session. Just as Ball found that the corporate life differed from the joy he had hoped for, Cash offered Ball a position in his traveling show. It was an offer to return to the thrill of performing for live audiences that he missed so much. So, a deal was struck, and Ball traveled with the Cash show touring, recording, and performing on television for the next 20 years. Ball also produced the remarkable Cash album *Rockabilly Blues* in 1980.

In 1980, the famed movie director Peter Bogdanovich was working on his next film, *They All Laughed*, starring Audrey Hepburn and Ben Gazzara. When asked to contribute a song to the film, Ball accepted and was also hired as the band leader in the film. A musical friendship was formed. Bogdanovich and Ball would write several songs for subsequent films such as *The Thing Called Love* and *Texasville*, where Ball also had a role as an actor appearing as Jeff Bridges' pal, Junior Nolan. Ball also acted with Andy Griffith and Cash in the made-for-TV movie *Murder in Coweta County*, directed by Gary Nelson.

Over the years, Ball has recorded and performed with Buck Owens & the Buckaroos, Gram Parsons' International Submarine Band, Merle Haggard, Carl Perkins, Marty Stuart, Freddie Hart, Phil Ochs, Michael Nesmith, Marty Robbins, Wynn Stewart, the Flying Burrito Brothers and on the Byrds' iconic album, *Sweetheart of the Rodeo*.

Since 1999, Ball has continued to do studio work, and to make music with his band Earl Poole Ball & the Fantabulous Friends. He also performs with the Heybale band and is working on his autobiography. He currently resides in Austin, Texas.

2024 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS

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THE *Award*

Designed by William Dunlap, the awards, coined "The Mackie" by the Board of Commissioners, are winged figure sculptures cast in bronze entitled "Fragment." Dunlap calls his art "aesthetic archaeology," noting that the winged figure appeared in Western European mythology long before the Biblical representation of the angel. According to Dunlap, the image is as fresh as yesterday yet looks as though it could have been made thousands of years ago. One of the most well-known winged figures in classical art is Nike, the Greek goddess of victory, certainly an appropriate symbol to recognize the deserving honorees of the Governor's Arts Awards.

A native of Webster County, Mississippi, Dunlap received a Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts in 1991 and served as Master of Ceremonies of the event for 18 years. During an illustrious career in the visual arts spanning more than three decades, he has become nationally known as a painter, printmaker, and sculptor.

2024 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS

2024 PRINTED *Materials*



Image Credit: "Blood Moon", Brent Funderburk, watercolor on paper, 2020, 21" x 41". From the series "Re-Inflorescence", collection of Tibor and Olga Pechan.



Printed materials designed by Lucy Hetrick

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Cora Gee, Governor's Mansion
Two Mississippi Museums Staff
Rebecca Hardy, Event Works
David Keary, Musician

*Thank
you*

STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS

THE HONORABLE TATE REEVES
Governor

THE HONORABLE DELBERT HOSEMANN
Lieutenant Governor

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL WATSON
Secretary of State

THE HONORABLE LYNN FITCH
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and Commerce

THE HONORABLE MIKE CHANEY
Commissioner of Insurance

2024 GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS

2024

Peter Zapletal
100 Men Hall
Cedric Burnside
Brent Funderburk
Earl Poole Ball

2023

King Edward Antoine
Betsy Bradley
Ralph Eubanks
Dr. Ann Fisher-Wirth
Ke Francis
Ed McGowin
Robert M. Hearin Support Foundation

2022

Alcorn State University Jazz Festival
Myrna Colley-Lee
Larry Gordon
Holly Lange
Mary Lovelace O'Neal
The Williams Brothers

2021

Arthur Jafa
Nellie McInnis
Raphael Semmes
Tutwiler Quilters
Jesmyn Ward
Benjamin Wright

2020

Richard Kelso
Henry Danton
Tougaloo College Art Collection
Steve Forbert
Jackson Southernares

2019

London Branch
The Canton Spirituals
Ruth Miller
New Stage Theatre
James Patterson
Hartley and Mary Peavey
Julia Reed

2018

Virginia Alice (V.A.) Bookhart Patterson
David Keary
Yoknapatawpha Arts Council
Steve Azar
Joseph Overstreet

2017

Sammy Britt
William R. Ferris
Vasti Jackson
Lucy Richardson Janoush
Jaimoe Johnie Johnson
Mississippi Opera

2016

Claudia Cartee
Scott Barretta

Dr. Tommie "Tonea" Stewart
Tig Notaro
Tom "Bones" Malone

2015

Lane Chapel Quintet
Maude Schuyler Clay
Chesney Blankenstein Doyle
MSU Riley Center for Education
and Performing Arts
Craig Wiseman

2014

Lesley Silver
John Maxwell
William Baggett
Jim Weatherly
James Cotton

2013

Kathryn Lewis
Bay St. Louis Little Theatre
Beth Henley
Eddie "Chank" Willis
Bobby Rush

2012

Althea Jerome
WellsFest
McCarty Pottery
Carl Jackson
Howard Bahr
Mose Allison

2011

Charles A. Rhoads
Natchez Literary & Cinema Celebration
Gwendolyn A. Magee
Mac McAnally
Joe Willie "Pinetop" Perkins

2010

Lenagene Waldrup
Bessie Johnson
Grassroots Radio Show
Wyatt Waters
David "Honeyboy" Edwards

2009

University of Southern
Mississippi Symphony Orchestra
WINGS Performing Arts Program, Lynn
Meadows Discovery Center
Wolfe Studio
Cassandra Wilson
John Grisham
Andrew Bucci

2008

Mississippi Museum of Art
Emma McCain
Lallah Miles Perry
Natasha Trethewey
Charley Pride

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2007

Nora Davis Magnet School
Viking Range Corporation
Sam Gilliam
Sam Carr
Bo Diddley

2006

Casey Elementary School
The Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, Inc.
Bruce Levingston
Trustmark National Bank
Fletcher Cox
Sam Myers
Elizabeth Spencer

2005

Mississippi School for
Mathematics and Science
Pearl Public School District
Thacker Mountain Radio
Gladys Kemp Lisanby
Sela Ward
Will D. Campbell

2004

Greenville Arts Council
James "Super Chikan" Johnson
Rankin County Schools
Malcolm White
Mary Katharine Loyacono McCravey

2003

Dr. David Stuart Blackburn
Thallis Lewis
Charles Burnett
Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education
USA International Ballet Competition
William Eggleston
Rust College A'Cappella Choir
Little Milton (Campbell)

2002

B. B. King
John Paul
Bologna Performing Arts Center
Sally W. Carmichael
The Village of Taylor
Andrew Cary Young
William Carey College Theatre
Dr. Russell Thomas, Jr.
Stephen E. Ambrose

2001

Samuel Mockbee
Ronald Otto Schnell
Pierce Street Elementary School
Martha Layton
Richardson Tatum
Roger D. Malkin
Lester Senter
George Berry
Abie "Boogaloo" Ames

2000

Senator Thad Cochran
Andrew Lark, Jr.
Hattiesburg Arts Council
John Palmer
Sarah Gillespie
Crossroads Quilters
Stewart Family Pottery
Larry Brown
Charlie Musselwhite

1999

Johnnie Billington
Ellen Douglas (Josephine Haxton)
Mississippi State Hospital Community
Services Homeless Program
P. Sanders McNeal
Museum of the Southern
Jewish Experience
Colman Pearce
Kenneth Quinn
Roebuck "Pops" Staples
Marty Stuart

1998

Beechwood Elementary School in the
Vicksburg Warren School District for Arts
in Basic Curriculum
The Cotton Blossom Singers of
the Piney Woods School
Dr. David Daigneault
Eastman Memorial Foundation for
Support of the Lauren Rogers
Museum of Art

Milt Hinton
Natchez Opera Festival, Inc.

1997

Dr. Paul E. Ballard
Marshall Bouldin
Dr. Samuel Marshall Gore
International Paper
The Knight Foundation through The Sun
Herald, The City of Biloxi, The George E.
Ohr Arts and Cultural Center
The Library of Hattiesburg, Petal
and Forrest County
Malaco Records
Dr. Jean Simmons

1996

Entergy/MP&L Company
Morgan Freeman
Sid Graves
Lisa N. Howorth
Dorothy Moore
Dan Overly
University Press of Mississippi
Theo Inman Vaughey

1995

Thomas Jones Biggs
Shelby Foote
Gumtree Festival
Bill Mitchell
William D. Mounger
New Stage Theatre Education Program
Lida Rogers
Billie Jean Young

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1994

Robert Parker Adams
B&P Interiors, Hinds County
Public Schools & Hinds County
Department of Human Services
Nelle DeLoach Elam
Keith Dockery McLean
Mississippi Action for Community
Education/Delta Arts Project
Willie Morris
Jim Timms

1993

Patti Carr Black
Vicki Bodenhamer
Eleanor Ferris
Richard Ford
Thomas Somerville Howorth
Mississippi Educational Television,
Mtel and USA International Ballet
Competition
Othar Turner

1992

Dr. Margaret Walker Alexander
Walter Anderson Museum of Art, City of
Ocean Springs & Jackson County
Board of Supervisors
Crosby Arboretum
Jane Reid-Petty
South Central Bell
West Tallahatchie High School
Mary Jane Whittington

1991

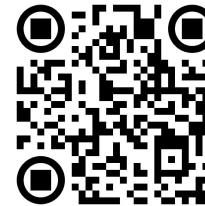
Center for the Study of Southern Culture
Chevron USA
Corinth Area Arts Council
William Dunlap
Jackson Public Schools and
Mississippi Symphony Orchestra
Ethel Wright Mohamed
Malcolm C. Norwood

1990

Eudora Welty
Starkville High School
Noxubee County Library
Mississippi Mass Choir
Mississippi Cultural Crossroads and
Claiborne County Board of Supervisors
Thalia Mara
Stuart C. Irby, Jr.

1988

Leontyne Price
Jean Chisholm Lindsey
Jackson Public Schools/Academic and
Performing Arts Complex Performing Arts
Division
City of Jackson
Barry Hannah
Deposit Guaranty National Bank
The Arts Alliance of Jackson & Hinds County



Nominations for the
2025 Governor's Arts Awards
open on Thursday, April 18, 2024.

Scan here

arts.ms.gov/gaa

Additional performers during today's program included:

Puppeteers:

T. J. McSparrin
Olivia Hansford
Erica Flannes
Lesley Raybon

Earl Poole Ball's Band:

Matthew Williams - Drums
Kevin Fox - Bass
Jimmie Dreams - Guitar

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Ashley and Hu Meena

Mississippi Symphony Orchestra

Frances Nelson

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Verna Ransom

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