

FY2024 ANNUAL REPORT

OVERVIEW

The Mississippi Arts Commission's mission is to foster creativity that enhances the quality of life in Mississippi communities through statewide investment in the arts. In FY24, MAC supported its mission by focusing on reaching new grantees in underserved areas of the state, continuing to expand the Mississippi Whole Schools Program, and offering educational and informative resources through webinars and the 2023 State Arts Conference. The goals mentioned throughout the report refer to MAC's strategic plan, which can be found on MAC's website, arts.ms.gov.

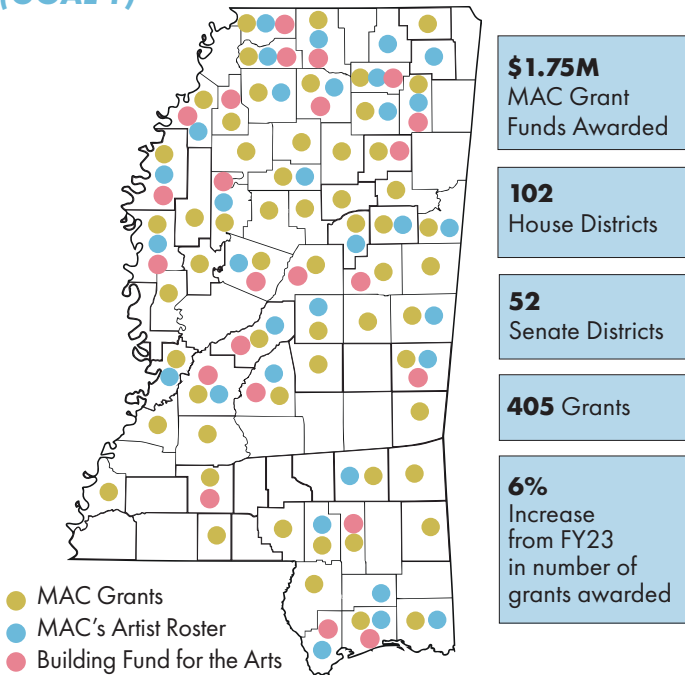


WHO WE ARE

The Mississippi Arts Commission is a state agency serving Mississippians through grants and special initiatives. MAC grants enhance Mississippi communities, provide monetary assistance to artists and arts organizations, promote and facilitate arts education, and celebrate Mississippi's cultural heritage. Funding for MAC grants is provided by support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mississippi Legislature, and private sources.

SUPPORTING THE ARTS THROUGH GRANTS

(GOAL 1)



Types of Grants Offered

Organizational Grants | awarded to organizations, non-profits, etc.

Operating Grants | up to \$30,000

Project Grants | up to \$5,000

Mini-Grants | up to \$1,000

Individual Grants | awarded to individual artists.

Artist Fellowships | up to \$5,000

Folk Arts Apprenticeships | up to \$2,000

Project Grants | up to \$2,000

Mini-Grants | up to \$500

Details about who can apply for these types of grants and what they can be used for can be found by visiting arts.ms.gov.

MAC 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.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

OF THE ARTS

In the latest report from the U.S. Bureau of Economic and Analysis, The Mississippi arts and culture sector was a **\$2.6 billion** industry in 2022 (1.84% of the state's GDP), representing **27,038** jobs (2.21% of Mississippi's workforce), and total compensation of **\$1.5 billion**.



27,038
jobs



1.84% of the state's GDP



\$2.6 BILLION industry in Arts and Culture

BUILDING FUND FOR THE ARTS (BFA) (GOAL 1)

\$5.2 Million Awarded

34 arts organizations across **23** counties (30 House Districts; 25 Senate Districts)

Out of the **62** organizations that submitted proposals, **34** arts facilities were awarded funds to support the repair and renovation of their buildings for the public to make full use of these spaces. The Building Fund for the Arts (BFA) grant program provides support for the repair, renovation and/or construction of public spaces that provide year-round arts programming. The continued support for BFA from the legislature strengthens endeavors to stimulate local economies and maintain creative spaces throughout the state.

Recipients:

Delta State University Foundation; E E Bass Education and Development Foundation; Harrisburg Cultural and Social Services Center Inc., dba Link Centre; Brookhaven Little Theatre; Friends of Lexington Preservation, Inc.; Meridian Little Theatre; Yoknapatawpha Arts Council, Inc.; Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, Inc.; Jackson Public Schools; Hundred Members Debating Benevolent Association, Inc.; Arts Foundation of Kosciusko; The Arts Hancock County; Hattiesburg Convention Commission dba Hattiesburg Saenger Theater; New Stage Theatre; Desoto Arts Institute; Delta Blues Museum; City of Louisville; Jackson State University Development Foundation, Inc.; Museum of the Mississippi Delta; Hancock Performing Arts Center; City of Senatobia; City of Houston; Biloxi Little Theatre; New Albany Middle School; Griot Arts Inc.; Town of Byhalia; The Piney Woods School; Mississippi Center for Cultural Production; Freedom Project Network; Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art; City of Gulfport; Tupelo Community Theatre; Lynn Meadows Discovery Center; Quitman County Arts Council



MISSISSIPPI WHOLE SCHOOLS
(GOALS 1,3 AND 4)

Mississippi Whole Schools (MWS) is a program of distinction for academic success through an arts-integrated approach to teaching. Professional development provides training in standards-based learning and assessment, closing the achievement for learners, and resulting in a positive impact on campus culture and climate.



24 schools participated

- 131** schools reached
- 3,369** teachers directly benefited from the program
- 20,983** students benefited from the program
- 63,193** students reached
- 227** Professional Development Workshops

Attendance and Reach for Summer Institute, Winter Institute, and Administrative Leadership Retreat

- 462** educators attended
- 73** schools represented
- 64** presenters

Mississippi Whole Schools Statistics

- Scored an average of **12** points higher in ELA test scores than the state average
- Model Schools scored an average of **23** points higher than the state average
- 95%** of teachers report that students are more engaged and motivated in an arts-integrated approach to instruction

5 new schools applied to the program

Additional funding support made it possible to train **7** additional consultants to support school growth. These consultants provided data aligned training that included on-site training for teachers and leadership training for administrators. Artist campus visits provided authentic arts experiences for students and curriculum connection strategies for teachers. **5** new campuses were onboarded into the program and two new campuses began their journey as Models in Arts Integration.

\$50,000 granted from the Hardin Foundation



MEET THE MAC (GOAL 1)

MAC hosted **15** Meet the MAC presentations across the state in FY24. These presentations gave attendees the opportunity to ask questions and find out more about the grants offered by MAC and the process to apply. MAC saw **77** applications from first-time applicants from **30** counties including one "underserved" county. **72 (94%)** of those new applicants (**28** organizations and **49** individuals) were recommended to receive funding in FY24.



Scan the QR code to see videos showcasing the Mississippi Whole Schools Summer Institute, a historic visit from the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for Humanities chairs, and **5** MAC grantees sharing the impact of the support they receive from MAC grants.

MISSISSIPPI ARTS HOUR (GOAL 1)

The Mississippi Arts Hour airs every Sunday at 5 p.m. CT on Mississippi Public Broadcasting Think Radio. An average of **7,900 listeners** tune in weekly to hear stories about Mississippi artists making an impact locally, nationally, and internationally. The show is also distributed as a podcast and has an average of **900 downloads** per month. In FY24, **52 artists** were featured, including:

- Di Rushing**
- Hush Puppy Collective**
- Eden Brent**
- Jimmi Mayes**
- Annette Trefzer**
- Kate Medley**
- and more.**



ASK A PROFESSIONAL (GOAL 2)

MAC hosted 4 Ask A Professional webinars in FY2024.

- Healthcare Marketplace with Bob Williams:
Thursday, September 28 (**14 attendees**)
- Artist Bios and Statements with Amy Beth Rice:
Friday, February 14 (**20 attendees**)
- Before you Hit Submit with Bob Arnold:
Tuesday, February 20 (**27 attendees**)
- Ask a Publisher with Lisa McMurray:
Friday, April 12 (**15 attendees**)

FOLK ARTS (GOAL 2)



Mississippi Folklife (www.mississippifolklife.org)

Mississippi Folklife is an online publication featuring original writing and documentary work focused on the expressive culture of everyday life and traditional arts within the state. Originally a print publication, Mississippi Folklife was established in 1927 by the Mississippi Folklore Society. In FY24, Mississippi Folklife published **8 essays** including an online exhibit featuring the artists who participated in MAC’s annual Folk Arts Apprenticeship grants program.

Mississippi Folklife New Brand

The Mississippi Arts Commission’s brand identity used two symbols to anchor its new branding: quilts and the magnolia. To keep within the same visual family as the MAC branding, Folk & Traditional Arts Director, Maria Zeringue, centered quilts as a foundation for the new logo for Mississippi Folklife. The main inspiration for the pinwheel icon of the Folklife logo came from a Wheel of Fortune quilt made by **Mary Ann Norton** from Claibourne County, MS. The Wheel of Fortune pattern has been used to make memory quilts, and it also symbolizes the passage of time. The deeper meaning behind this pattern ties in perfectly with the mission of MS Folklife: which is to document and showcase traditional arts and artists of the state. The program’s work is steeped in the present-day practices of Mississippi’s traditional artists, but we also work on documenting and sustaining artistic practices of the past for future generations. The logo was designed by **Tyler Tadlock** of Jackson, MS.



MISSISSIPPI
FOLKLIFE

Folk Arts Apprenticeship Showcase

This year, MAC partnered with the Mississippi Craftsmen’s Guild to present the **4 artists** participating in the Folk Apprenticeship program during the Craftsmen’s Guild annual Spring Demo Day. The four apprenticeship grantees are:



Brian Beckham
and
Martha Scarborough
Silversmithing



Katie Clark
and
Sarah Rose Gvero
Crochet



STATE ARTS CONFERENCE (GOALS 1 AND 4)

The 2023 State Arts Conference Presented by The Westin Jackson had over **200** attendees. The Westin Jackson provided the perfect atmosphere for the conference. Attendees were surrounded by art from Mississippians throughout the hotel. This year, the conference included an extra day, allowing attendees to network. In addition, a new event called **ArtTalk** featured a conversation between **Congressman Harper and the director of the Americans for the Arts, Nolen Bivens**. Mississippi artist and Laurel native **Adam Trest** was the keynote speaker. Other speakers and topics included **Landon Bryant; Working with Boards**, presented by **George Bassi; Creating and Maintaining Public Art; Art/Work Balance**; and much more. MAC Roster Artists also had an opportunity to receive a FREE professional headshot during the conference.

During the conference, MAC, in partnership with **Mississippi's Lower Delta Partnership** and **Yates Construction**, hosted wood carver **Dayton Scoggins**, who carved the **Great Delta Bear Affair 2023** bear outside Thalia Mara Hall. This supported Rolling Fork, Mississippi, in response to the March 2023 tornado that destroyed the town.



AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) AND ACCESSIBILITY WEBINARS (GOALS 1 AND 2)

MAC is committed to helping Mississippi arts organizations comply with ADA rules to make their facilities and art accessible. MAC partnered with the Southeast ADA Center to host a three-part training series on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The session topics covered:

- Disability Rights**
- Facility Access**
- Effective Communication**

These trainings are archived and viewable on MAC's website until August 31, 2026, with the possibility of an extension.



GOVERNOR'S ARTS AWARDS (GOALS 2,3 AND 4)

The Governor's Arts Awards is an annual event produced by MAC since 1988, that honors outstanding artists and organizations and celebrates Mississippi's cultural legacy. In 2024 MAC honored **5** outstanding recipients:

- 100 Men Hall** – Arts in Community
- Earl Poole Ball** – Lifetime Achievement
- Cedric Burnside** – Excellence in Music
- Brent Funderburk** – Excellence in Visual Arts & Education
- Peter Zapletal** – Excellence in Performing Arts

POETRY OUT LOUD (GOAL 4)

Poetry Out Loud is a national arts education program that encourages the study of great poetry by offering free educational materials and a dynamic recitation competition for high school students across the country.

This year **13** schools; **62** teachers; **615** students participated in the competition statewide. **9** high school students advanced to the Poetry Out Loud state finals which were hosted at Mississippi Public Broadcasting in Jackson.

- State Champion**
Malisha Taylor
Sophomore
Pascagoula High School
- 2nd Place**
Tommy Nichol
Junior
Oxford High School
- 3rd Place**
Sanika Janorkar
Freshman
Rosa Scott High School

