



December 2005 – Mississippi Humanities Council Newsletter
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MHC Approves \$59,859 in Grants in November and December

The Mississippi Humanities Council has tentatively approved eight Minigrant projects in November for a total of \$16,200. The Council also approved seven Regular Grant projects for a total of \$43,651.

Mini-grant applications are reviewed bi-monthly and regular grant applications are reviewed twice a year, at the Council's February and October meetings.

The approved projects span a variety of humanities disciplines. The successful proposals include:

- ***Literature Series: Chinese Poetry and Literature.*** Sponsor: Mississippi University for Women. Award: \$2,000. Council funds will support a visit by an expert in Chinese literature and history to present lectures associated with MUW's annual International Series.
- ***Marian Anderson Birthday Bash.*** Sponsor: Friends of the Emily Jones Pointer Public Library (Como Public Library). Award: \$2,000. Council funds will support a three-day event examining segregation issues by exploring the life and music of operatic singer Marian Anderson.
- ***Constant Battle: The C.C. Bryant Story.*** Sponsor: PieceWorks Deep South Arts Collaborative. Award: \$2,000. Council funds will be used to purchase

archival footage rights for a 57-minute documentary film about Civil Rights activist Curtis Conway “C.C.” Bryant.

- ***Southern Circuit Film Series 2005–2006***. Sponsor: Millsaps College. Award: \$2,000. MHC funds will be used toward membership fees in the Southern Circuit Film Series.
- ***Between Fences***. Sponsor: Lincoln Lawrence Franklin Regional Library (Lincoln County Library). Award: \$1,700. MHC funds will be used to produce a companion piece for the Smithsonian Institution’s traveling exhibit, “Between Fences,” which tells the story of the settling of the United States, the establishment of its communities and the building of its borders.
- ***Freedom’s Call***. Sponsor: Syracuse University. Award: \$2,000. MHC funds will be used to purchase rights to photographs, music and newspaper articles for a documentary film about two African-American journalists who covered the Civil Rights movement in Mississippi and other regions in the South.
- ***Family Reading Bonds***. Sponsor: Communities in Schools of Greenwood Leflore, Inc. Award: \$2,500. MHC funds will help bring a professional storyteller and humanities scholar together with children and their parents to share reading activities.
- ***Red Clay Readers Book Club***. Sponsor: Blue Mountain College. Award: \$2,000. MHC funds will be used to coordinate a book discussion for students, alumni, faculty and staff. Discussions will address justice issues in Mississippi.
- ***“Biscuits, Gumbo, Sweet Tea and Bourbon Balls: Southern Food and Drink in History, Literature and Film”— the 17th Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration***. Sponsor: Copiah–Lincoln Community College. Award: \$5,000. MHC funds will provide part of the budget for a festival focusing on the history and heritage of food and drink in the Deep South.
- ***Unburied Treasures***. Sponsor: Mississippi Museum of Art. Award: \$6,500. MHC funding will provide honoraria, among other expenses, for a monthly lecture series that explores the museum’s permanent collect.
- ***Thirteenth Oxford Conference for the Book***. Sponsor: The University of Mississippi. Award: \$5,000. MHC funding will provide a portion of the budget for this annual literary conference, which will be dedicated to novelist and historian Shelby Foote.
- ***George Washington Slept Here: The Colonial Revival in America 1876–1930***. Sponsor: Columbus Historic Foundation. Award: \$4,000. This two-day event will “educate, entertain and enlighten” audiences about the colonial revival period in the U.S.
- ***Local History: The Black Freedom Struggle in Claiborne County and Beyond***. Sponsor: Mississippi Cultural Crossroads. Award: \$6,800. The

first part is a one-day workshop for area history and social studies teachers addressing mythologies about the civil rights movement. The second part is a two-day conference, with the first day occurring in the schools with scholars reviewing students' National History Day projects and the second day consisting of a public forum for an adult audience exploring new ways to examine history from a local rather than a national perspective

Two Grant Deadlines Approaching

Two opportunities to apply for Mississippi Humanities Council grants occur in January 2006. Applications will be accepted through Jan. 4, 2006, for minigrants up to \$2,000 for projects that celebrate ideas, writings and events of our cultural heritage. Applications for regular grants - more than \$2,000 - will be accepted through Jan. 15, 2006. Application guidelines and forms are available at www.mshumanities.org

Nominations Invited for Mississippi Humanities Council

The Mississippi Humanities Council needs members who are able to make a substantial commitment of time and energy to the work of the public humanities. Members must be able to attend meetings and spend time on grant evaluation, planning, assessment, fund-raising, member recruitment, and other committee work. New members are selected annually for four-year terms. Questions about Council membership may be directed to 601-432-6752. Nomination forms are available at www.mshumanities.org.

Speakers Bureau Offers 146 Engaging Topics for Community Programs

One of the most visible programs of the Mississippi Humanities Council is the Speakers Bureau. Created in 1990, it provides scholarly programming for regions of the state with limited access to cultural experiences. Speakers' topics range from Mississippi history and ethnic and cultural discussions to women's studies, philosophy and ethics, southern literature, archeology and the visual arts. More than 100 speakers are available to nonprofit community organizations for lecture and discussion programs. A complete list of topics and speakers is available at www.mshumanities.org. Groups requesting a speaker are asked to make a cash or in-kind contribution equal to the honorarium and travel payments for the speaker, which are paid by the Mississippi Humanities Council. The host organization may claim donated space, the volunteer time of lecture coordinators and any donated advertising as in-kind contributions.

Educators Recognized for Humanities Contributions

The Mississippi Humanities Council has selected 23 educators from around the state to receive Humanities Teacher Awards. Awards are made in October – Arts and Humanities month – to one humanities faculty member at each institution of higher learning in the state. Only the president or appropriate dean can nominate the faculty member, and the nominations. Award recipients agree to make public presentations based on scholarly research or current humanities interests. The title carries a cash award of \$500, which is matched in-kind by the nominating institution. Award recipients will be honored at the Mississippi Humanities Council's 2006 Annual Awards Dinner in Jackson.

2006 Annual Awards Dinner Honors Outstanding Humanities Contributions

The Mississippi Humanities Council will host its 2006 Annual Awards Dinner Feb. 3, 2006, to present 2005 Public Humanities Achievement Awards and recognize the 2005 Humanities Teacher Awardees. Award categories include Humanities Scholar Award, Public Humanities Achievement Award, Chair's Award for Special Achievements, Special Recognition Award and Humanities Educator Award. Invitations will be mailed to special guests in January. Others interested in purchasing tickets may contact the Mississippi Humanities Council at 601-432-6752.

'Between Fences' Tour Continues

"Between Fences," a traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibit depicting the settling of the United States, travels Nov. 30 to the Oren Dunn Museum in Tupelo for a one-month run. "Between Fences" is the third Smithsonian Institution travel exhibit to come to Mississippi, via the Mississippi Humanities Council. It is the story of people, pigs, corn and dirt. It is about intimacy and conflict, creativity and industry, restraint and liberation in America.

Dates and locations for the Between Fences traveling exhibit are as follows:

- Nov. 30–Dec. 22, 2005, Oren Dunn Museum, Tupelo, MS (for information about special events and exhibits at this site contact Christy Roberts at 662-841-6438 or museum@ci.tupelo.ms.us)



- Jan. 6–Jan. 31, 2006, Lincoln Lawrence Franklin Public Library (for information about special events and exhibits at this site contact Henry Ledet at 601.833–3369 or hledet@llf.lib.ms.us)
- Feb. 4–March 7, 2006, M.R. Dye Public Library, Horn Lake, MS (for information about special events and exhibits at this site contact Carson Culver at 662–393–5654 or carsonc@first.lib.ms.us)
- March 20–April 25, 2006, Mitchell Memorial Library, Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS (for information about special events and exhibits at this site contact Glen Berry at 662–325–2029 or gberry@library.msstate.edu)

Upcoming Humanities Events in Mississippi

- Feb. 7, 2006, *The Delights & Dilemmas of Nature: The Challenge of Environmental Ethics*, Anderson Auditorium, Northeast Campus, Booneville, MS. Speaker Forrest Wood Jr. considers the delights and dilemmas of man’s relationship with the rest of nature, focusing on such issues as wilderness, predators, and hunting, of utilitarianism, rights in nature, and intrinsic values. He concludes by discussing the question of how to preserve nature in face of man’s assumed need to exploit it.
- Feb 20, 2006, *Mississippi and World War I*, Itawamba Community College, W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Auditorium, Fulton, MS. That Mississippi changed more as a result of World War II than it did from the Civil War is a proposition put forward by Ray Skates in the *Journal of Mississippi History* and by Morton Sosna in *Remaking Dixie*. Reviewing the argument that Mississippi remained basically the same through Reconstruction and the New Deal, the speaker discusses the “home front” with training camps, foreign travel, and the problem of fitting Japanese into the state’s segregation and describes the economic development brought about by the war. Ultimately, changes in the state were reflected in the shift away from the national Democratic party by 1944 and the growth of “states’ rights” as an important issue.

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