



November 2006 – Mississippi Humanities Council Newsletter
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Mississippi Hosts National Kick-Off for Smithsonian Exhibit

(MERIDIAN, MS) The Mississippi Humanities Council will host the national kick-off for a new traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibit, “New Harmonies”, March 24, 2007, at the MSU Riley Center for Performing Arts in Meridian.

Through a partnership with the Smithsonian Institution, the Mississippi Humanities Council is bringing this portable seven-kiosk exhibit to where it will appear in six communities from March 2007 through January 2008, including Meridian, New Albany, Vicksburg, Gulfport, Columbia and Clarksdale.



“New Harmonies” is an interactive exhibit portraying the ongoing cultural process that has made America the birthplace of more music than any place on earth. The exhibition provides a fascinating, inspiring and toe-tapping listen to the American story of multi-cultural exchange. The story is full of surprises about familiar songs, histories of instruments, the roles of religion and technology, and the continuity of musical roots Native American chanting and drumming to the latest hip hop CD.

“New Harmonies” is part of the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street (MOMS) program. MOMS serves small- to medium-sized communities by bringing Smithsonian-quality exhibitions to local museums, historical societies, libraries and community centers that traditionally have limited access to traveling exhibitions due to space and cost limitations. Each exhibition consists of free-standing structures that contain interactive components and artifacts. In addition to the MOMS structures, each host community will add elements to their installation of the exhibit and produce a series of local programs related to the “New Harmonies” theme.

For information about “New Harmonies,” contact David Morgan at 601-432-6752 or by email at david@mhc.state.ms.us. Information about the traveling exhibit may also be obtained by visiting www.mshumanities.org or www.museumonmainstreet.org.

MHC Co-Sponsors “Conversations About Coast Community Life”

(GULFPORT, MS) Four Mississippi cultural agencies will host “A Cultural Charrette: Conversations about Coast Community Life” in Gulfport on December 1-2, 2006, on the Jefferson Davis Campus of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College.

This significant gathering will offer residents an opportunity to be part of reweaving the massive fabric that constitutes the heart and soul of the coastal area. The charrette will provide a forum to identify ways to rebuild and enhance these community assets and encourage collaboration among cultural entities as recovery continues.



Hosted by the Mississippi Arts Commission, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Mississippi Humanities Council and Mississippi Library Commission, funding for the project is provided through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

This two-day event is free to the public. However, Friday’s agenda is designed for community leaders and leaders of Coast cultural organizations. Saturday’s agenda is intended for all Coast residents. For information, please call 1-800-647-7542.

Nominations Invited for Humanities Awards

The Mississippi Humanities Council invites nominations for its 2006 Public Humanities Achievement Awards, which honor outstanding contributions in the arena of public humanities.

Nominations will be accepted for Humanities Scholar Award, Public Humanities Achievement Award, Chair's Award for Special Achievements, Special Recognition Award and Humanities Educator Award.

The Council began issuing Achievement Awards in 1993 to recognize persons who have supported the Council's work through public programs across the state based in the branches of learning concerned with human thought and relations, such as history, literature, culture, values and ideas. All Mississippians are invited to make nominations for these awards. Nominations are reviewed by a panel, which selects the year's awardees.

"The Public Humanities Achievement Awards bring statewide attention to individuals or institutions in Mississippi that have made significant scholarly contributions to the humanities or who have led exceptional public humanities programming in Mississippi," said Dr. Barbara Carpenter, executive director of the Mississippi Humanities Council.

All awards will be presented at the Mississippi Humanities Council's 2007 Public Humanities Achievement Awards banquet Friday, Feb. 9, 2007, at the Hilton Jackson hotel. Recipients of the 2006 Humanities Teacher Awards, which pay tribute to outstanding faculty in traditional humanities fields, will also be honored at the banquet.

Nominations for Public Humanities Achievement Awards may be made online at www.mshumanities.org. For information call 601-432-6752.

MHC Seeks Secretary/Executive Assistant

The Mississippi Humanities Council is currently seeking someone to fill the position of Secretary/Executive Assistant. The successful candidate must have excellent organizational and communications skills, proficiency in basic clerical tasks, and competence in Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, and Word Perfect software. This person will be expected to become efficient in using computer programs specific to nonprofit grants management which are basic to Council operations.

The job entails working with a small staff to carry out a variety of responsibilities, interaction with board members, and extensive contact with the public. Occasional after-hours work is required (2-3 times each year) when necessary during board meetings or special programs or to meet deadlines. The Executive Assistant is often the first contact with the general public and must be courteous and efficient in dealing with persons from all walks of life

The person holding this position is responsible for assisting the Fiscal Administrator in keeping miscellaneous records and documentation, maintaining the database, handling logistics for various meetings and for the annual Awards Dinner, keeping records and materials related to the National Endowment for the Humanities and transferring information to the NEH, and other duties as assigned by the Executive Director. Under the supervision of the Executive Director and other staff members, this person will handle correspondence, mailings, prepare materials for council meetings and other occasions, and carry out other duties as assigned by the Director. He/she will also assist the Assistant Director, Fiscal Administrator, Program Specialist, and other staff and volunteers from time to time with clerical and other duties.

An undergraduate degree and at least three years experience are greatly preferred; salary is commensurate with education and experience. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Interested persons should submit a letter of inquiry and resume with references to the following: Barbara Carpenter, Executive Director, Mississippi Humanities Council, 3825 Ridgewood Road, Room 311, Jackson, MS 39211 or online to barbara@mhc.state.ms.us

Next MHC Grant Deadline is January 1, 2007

January 1, 2007, is the next Mississippi Humanities Council minigrant application deadline for proposals up to \$2,000. Application guidelines and forms are available at www.mshumanities.org.

Mississippi Humanities Council Announces New Grant Deadlines

The Mississippi Humanities Council has revised its deadlines for grant applications exceeding \$2,000. Applications for Regular Grants will now be accepted September 15 and April 15 annually. Decisions will be announced November 15 and June 15. Visit www.mshumanities.org and click on "Downloads" to review and/or download grant guidelines and application forms. The deadlines for Mini-grants, less than \$2,000, remain unchanged.

Upcoming Humanities Events in Mississippi

- November 1 – December 31, 2006, *Saturday Surprises*, Gulfport, MS. Different entertaining and educational programs each Saturday during November and December 2006 around the theme, "A Mississippi City Christmas -- Circa 1900."
- November 1 – December 31, 2006, *Faulkner's World: The Photographs of Martin J. Dain*, Oxford, MS. Interpretive exhibition of the photographs Martin J. Dain made of author William Faulkner and his cultural environment in and around Oxford, MS, between 1961 and 1963.
- November 10–11, 2006, *Willie Morris Symposium*, Yazoo City, MS. Celebration of local author Willie Morris with a book signing by Jack Bales of his new bio–bibliography on Morris, as well as discussions with authors of Morris' literary career and video segments from interviews.

For contact information and further details about Mississippi Humanities Council–sponsored events, please visit our Events Calendar at www.mshumanities.org.

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