



June 2006 – Mississippi Humanities Council Newsletter
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Host Sites Named for ‘New Harmonies’ Traveling Exhibit

Through a partnership with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., the Mississippi Humanities Council is bringing “New Harmonies,” a portable seven-kiosk exhibit, to Mississippi. “New Harmonies” 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-



Delta Bluesman Monroe Jones and Anita Sanders, photo by Philip K. Ensley, 1997.

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.

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.

Next MHC Grant Deadline is September 1

September 1 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.

Upcoming Humanities Events in Mississippi

- June 17 – September 10, 2006, *From the Fire: Contemporary Korean Ceramics*, Jackson, MS. Jackson State University, in partnership with the Mississippi Museum of Art, is sponsoring this exhibition which features the work of 54 different ceramic artists and is the largest survey of Korean ceramic works ever to be exhibited in North America. The 108 works represented in the exhibition are created by internationally celebrated ceramists who have participated in the World Ceramic Exposition in Seoul, Korea, and have been featured in major museum collections around the world, such as the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and the Seoul Metropolitan Museum of Art in Korea. Planned events include an Opening Reception July 8, 2006, from 6–8 p.m. at the Mississippi Museum of Art; a Ceramic History Lecture and Demonstration July 11, 2006, from 1–4 p.m. at Jackson State University; a Workshop for

Educators and the Public July 12, 2006, from 1–4 p.m.; and a Culminating Lecture and Discussion July 20, 2006, from 6–8 p.m.

- June 30, 2006, *The Blues in Claiborne County: From Rabbit Foot Minstrels to Blues and Cruise*, Port Gibson, MS. The Claiborne County Board of Supervisors has created a historical exhibit tracing the history of Port Gibson as an important center for the performance and spread of blues music. The exhibit documents in text and photos the career of the world renowned "Rabbit Foot Minstrels" in Port Gibson from 1918 through the 1950s, and the revival of blues music performance in the Blues and Cruise Festival beginning in 2002. A public forum will be held June 30 to unveil the exhibit. The program begins at 5 p.m. with public viewing of the exhibit and refreshments, followed by a keynote address by music scholar, historian and performer Dr. David Evans of the University of Memphis. The program will conclude with a performance by Dr. Evans and his jug band. The 4th Annual Blues & Cruise Thru History Motorcycle Rally and Show will follow the forum on Saturday, July 1, 2006. For more information about this even, visit <http://www.portgibsononthemississippi.com/welcome.html>.
- July 17–18, 2006, *The Summit on the Less Commonly Taught Languages*, Croft Institute for International Studies, The University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS. A small but intense day-and-a-half meeting to discuss how to improve the offerings of such less commonly taught languages in our state such as Latin, Italian and German. For language teachers, administrators who would like to offer additional languages, professors and anyone interested in the topic of foreign language teaching in Mississippi.

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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