



Focus on the Humanities

December 2008 - Mississippi Humanities Council Newsletter



(Visit our web site at www.mshumanities.org to learn more about us.)

Happy Holidays from the Mississippi Humanities Council!

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MHC Announces Changes in Grants Program

The Mississippi Humanities Council announces several important changes to its grants program. Beginning Jan. 1, 2009, minigrant applications will be accepted four times per year rather than six. The deadlines will be Jan. 15, April 15, July 15 and Oct. 15.

Due to current budget constrictions, the maximum amount that may be requested for minigrants will be \$1,200. Regular grants will have a maximum of \$3,000 for applications submitted during 2009. The two annual deadlines will remain unchanged: April 15 and Sept. 15.

The Council will review these new lower limits for 2010.

Minor changes have been made in guidelines related to the MHC Speakers Bureau program, as well. Mississippi nonprofit organizations may request a maximum of three speakers per year, and speakers may accept a maximum of six MHC-funded engagements per year.

Please watch the Mississippi Humanities Council web site for new grant guidelines to appear in January 2009.

Nominations Invited for Humanities Awards

- **Humanities Scholar Award**
- **Humanities Partner Award**
- **Humanities Educator Award**
- **Humanities Award for Preservation of Mississippi Culture**

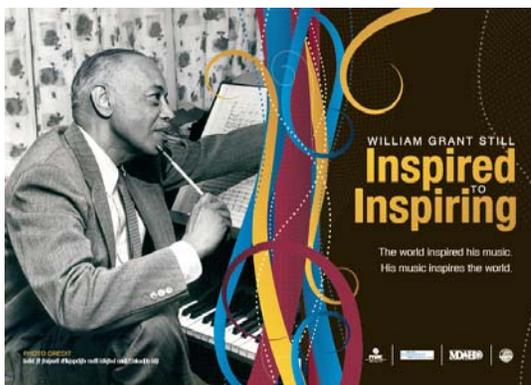
The Mississippi Humanities Council invites nominations for its 2009 Humanities Achievement Awards, which honor outstanding contributions in public humanities programming. Nominations will be accepted for the Humanities Scholar Award, Humanities Partner Award, Humanities Educator Award and Humanities Award for Preservation of Mississippi Culture.

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.

All awards will be presented at the "Celebrating Excellence in Humanities Education" awards banquet Friday, Feb. 27, 2009, at the Hilton Jackson hotel. Please you're your calendars. Recipients of the 2008 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.

Traveling Exhibit Celebrates Life of MS Composer William Grant Still



"William Grant Still: Inspired to Inspire," is a traveling exhibit sponsored through a collaborative partnership between the Mississippi Arts Commission, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the Mississippi Humanities Council and the Mississippi Library Commission. Consisting of eight free-standing fabric panels, the exhibit celebrates the life and work of Woodville native, William

Grant Still, who was known as the "Dean of American Negro Composers." Still wrote more than 150 compositions before his death in 1978. Famed conductor Leopold Stokowski called him "one of our greatest American composers" and the LA Times recognized him as "our great resident composer" in 1956.

Still's musical masterpieces often drew comparisons to Tchaikovsky, while also earning him many notable distinctions throughout his career, including being the first African-American to conduct a major American symphony orchestra, the first to have a symphony of his own performed by a leading orchestra, the first to have an opera performed by a major opera company and the first to have an opera performed on national television.

"By any standards, Mississippi reigns supreme in contributions to 20th-century root and popular music," said Mississippi Humanities Council Executive Director Barbara Carpenter. "In the work and influence of Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, B.B. King, Elvis Presley, Jimmie Rodgers, Tammy Wynette and Charley Pride – for only a few examples – we see the fundamentals of most modern blues, rock and roll, rhythm and blues, jazz and country. "But we have another, perhaps less widely known but equally important and influential figure: William Grant Still. In the Woodville native we see another shining example of the state's contributions: the pre-eminent African-American composer of classical music, breaking ground in numerous categories, influencing later composers and performers and following his own genius as it led him to national and international recognition.

"Our hope is that this exhibit will bring fuller attention to yet another musical giant and deepen Mississippians' appreciation of an outstanding contributor to our unparalleled cultural and artistic heritage," Carpenter added.

The exhibit will travel the state, with 13 stops scheduled through November 2009. The exhibit's itinerary will conclude in Natchez Nov. 18, 2009, at a conference hosted by Still's daughter, Judith Anne. The exhibit is free and open to the public. The scheduled locations and dates are as follows:

2008

Dec 22–Jan 16 Carnegie Public Library/Clarksdale

2009

Jan 19–Jan 30 MS Dept of Archives & History/Jackson

Feb 02–Feb 27 Rust College/Holly Springs

Mar 02–Mar 27 Lee County Library/Tupelo

Apr 06–Apr 30 Robert C. Irwin Public Library/Tunica

May 06–May 29 Lexington Public Library/Lexington

June 06–June 30 Gulf Coast Community College/Gautier

July 06–July 31 MSU Riley Center/Meridian

Aug 06–Sept 02 Forrest County Public Library/Hattiesburg

Sept 07–Sept 30 Lafayette County & Oxford Public Library

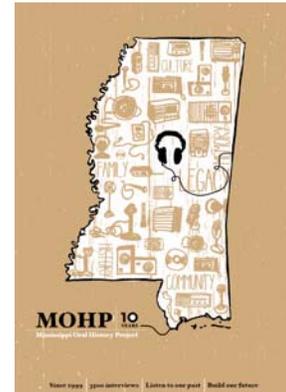
Oct 05–Oct 30 Alcorn University (JD Boyd Library)/Lorman

Nov 18–Nov 22 William Grant Still Conference/Natchez

For more information, contact 601/359-6030.

Reception Marks 10th Anniversary of Mississippi Oral History Project

Join the Mississippi Humanities Council and the University of Southern Mississippi Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage at the Mississippi State Capitol Rotunda Feb. 26, 2009, for a live theater performance by students from the award-winning WINGS Performing Arts Program, who will bring to life stories from the Mississippi Oral History collection. Hors d'oeuvres, beverages, guest speakers, a sampling of recorded oral histories and a listening/recording station will also be available to celebrate the 10th anniversary of this statewide history project. For information about the Mississippi Oral History Project, please visit <http://www.mshumanities.org/pages/oralhistory.asp>.



Journey Stories: Coming Soon to a Town Near You

(JACKSON, MS) – Through a partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and the Federation of State Humanities Councils the Mississippi Humanities Council is bringing “Journey Stories,” a portable six-kiosk exhibit, to Mississippi. “Journey Stories” will appear in six communities from May 2009 through March 2010, including Clinton, Southaven, Natchez, McComb, Hazlehurst, and Long Beach. “Journey Stories” is an interactive exhibit addressing migration and immigration as they relate to the American experience. Using engaging images, audio and artifacts, it tells stories that illustrate the critical roles travel and movement have played in building our diverse American society. “Journey Stories” 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 “Journey Stories” themes. For information about “Journey Stories,” 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.



Courtesy of the MS Department of Archives and History.

MHC Welcomes Your Holiday Support

Mississippi Humanities Council programs are engaging, inspiring and free of charge. Your gift makes a big difference to our mission of cultivating an understanding of our history

and culture throughout the state. You help us enrich peoples' lives through programs incorporating history, literature, music, politics, philosophy and other humanities-based disciplines that illuminate the human condition. Thanks to your support, we are able to serve all Mississippians: all ages, all geographic areas of the state, all walks of life.

A small gift of \$25 will purchase two books for children participating in the Mississippi Humanities Council's [Family Reading Bonds](#) program.

A larger gift of \$250 will fund a lecture in a school classroom, local library or civic club, by a member of the Mississippi Humanities Council [Speakers Bureau](#).

A \$2,500 contribution will underwrite a six-week [Family Reading Bonds](#) series, part of the Mississippi Humanities Council's literacy program.

A gift of any amount can support any one of our ongoing programs:

- [Oral History Projects](#)
- [Lecture Series](#)
- [Smithsonian Exhibits](#)
- [Public Humanities Awards](#)

Bequests and gifts in memory of a loved one are also welcome.

The humanities are vital to each of us – to our self-awareness, our understanding of the past and our vision of the future. The Mississippi Humanities Council has been bringing the insights of history and culture into people's lives since 1972. The Council celebrates and preserves our diverse cultural heritage, creates public dialogue on issues that matter and enriches the education we offer our children. The Council depends on public support. Won't you join us? The MHC will appreciate your financial help. To donate online, please visit <http://www.mshumanities.org/Donor/Donations.asp> . Or call 601-432-6752.

Nominations Sought for Historical Records Awards

The Mississippi Historical Records Advisory Board is accepting nominations for awards that will honor efforts to identify, preserve and provide access to Mississippi's historical records.

The Archival Program Development Award recognizes meritorious work over and above the ordinary call of duty. The award recognizes archival programs that offer new ideas and innovations that contribute to, and increase access to and interest in, Mississippi's documented history.

The Documenting Mississippi's History Award recognizes effectiveness in improving the documentary record of Mississippi through identifying and preserving records relating to under-documented communities and topics, and making this documentary record available to a broader public audience. The award recognizes innovative approaches to

identifying and acquiring information and records and a demonstrated success in raising public awareness of Mississippi's history.

The Use of Historical Records in Grades K–12 Award recognizes an understanding of the educational value of primary sources and the extent to which primary sources have been integrated into a classroom or school district curriculum; impact of the use of primary sources on student academic performance and community involvement; use of innovative and creative techniques for using primary sources in the classroom; and evidence of a collaborative effort with an archival program.

The Use of Historical Records in Higher Education Award recognizes an understanding of the educational value of primary sources and the extent to which primary sources have been integrated into an academic course or program of study; impact of the use of primary sources on student academic performance and community involvement; use of innovative and creative techniques for using primary sources in the classroom; and evidence of a collaborative effort with an archival program.

Nomination forms may be downloaded from <http://archives3.mdah.state.ms.us/mhrab-award-nom.pdf> (PDF file). Completed forms and support material must be received by the Records Advisory Board by Jan. 16, 2009. For more information call 601–576–6850.

Upcoming Humanities Events in Mississippi

- Jan. 10, 2009, *Native Guard Symposium*, Ohr–O’Keefe Museum of Art, Biloxi, MS. Nationally acclaimed authors and scholars will discuss the history and impact of the African American Louisiana Native Guard, which served on Ship Island off the Mississippi Gulf Coast during the Civil War.
- Jan. 31, 2009, *Ethics at the End of Life*, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS. Plato–style symposium with open discussion centering on ethical decision–making at the end of life.
- Feb. 19–22, 2009, *Southern Women Writers: Saluting the Eudora Welty Centennial*, Copiah–Lincoln Community College, Natchez, MS. 20th Natchez Literary and Cinema Celebration featuring programs by scholars, historians, writers, film experts and others who will explore the life of Mississippi author Eudora Welty and other Southern women writers. Related activities include films, documentaries, a play, discussion groups, book signings, an awards ceremony, a custom bookshop and writing workshops.
- Feb. 26, 2009, *Mississippi Oral History Project 10th Anniversary Reception*, State Capitol Building Rotunda, First Floor, Jackson, MS. The Mississippi Humanities Council and the University of Southern Mississippi Center for Oral History and Cultural Heritage will host a live theater performance by students from the award–winning WINGS Performing Arts Program, who will bring to life stories from the Mississippi



Eudora Welty.
Photo courtesy
of wikipedia.com

Oral History collection. Hors d'oeuvres, beverages, guest speakers, a sampling of recorded oral histories and a listening/recording station will also be available to celebrate the 10th anniversary of this statewide history project.

Next MHC Grant Deadline Jan. 15, 2009

January 15, 2009, is the next minigrant application deadline for proposals up to \$1,200. Application guidelines and forms are available at www.mshumanities.org.



Disclaimer

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