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SAAC Receives Grant Awards

STARKVILLE, MS -



SAAC Receives One Year Operating Grant from Mississippi Arts Commission

Starkville Area Arts Council received a one-year \$14,000 operating grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC). This award is a portion of the \$1.3 million in grants the Commission will award in 2017-2018. The award to SAAC will support general operations in our mission to create a strong, creative, connected community through art. In particular, these funds will help improve and expand existing art education programs and outreach throughout the year. MAC grants are made possible by continued funding from the Mississippi State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

“Arts organizations throughout the state of Mississippi play a pivotal role in sharing the power of the arts with people from all walks of life,” said Malcolm White, executive director of MAC. “The arts are for everyone, and the Mississippi Arts Commission is pleased to support arts organizations committed to growing the presence of the arts in their communities.”

“General operating support grants from MAC is critical to sustain art education and



outreach programs throughout the year,” says Executive Director John Bateman. “These grants increase general funds and support after-school programs, grant and scholarship awards, and other ways that SAAC builds a community through art. Local organizations are uniquely suited to fund local projects, and relationships with funders like MAC are extremely appreciated.”



SAAC Receives Visit Mississippi Grant for 2018 Forks & Corks

Starkville Area Arts Council received a \$2,500 tourism grant from Visit Mississippi for our annual Forks & Corks Event. Tourism grants from Visit Mississippi are given for festivals and events that have potential to grow, with priority to new or expanding events. These funds must be used for certain advertising and marketing expenses with the underlying purpose of generating tourism.

“Forks & Corks has become an extremely popular fundraising event that focuses on the culinary arts,” says Executive Director John Bateman. “It consistently sells out, and this year, we’re excited to expand the event to draw more attention to the region’s fantastic cuisine. We’re excited to have Visit Mississippi support this endeavor.”

SAAC Receives Grant from Bridges Out of Poverty

Starkville Area Arts Council has been awarded a grant of \$3500 to help fund various outreach programs during the 2018-19 fiscal year. Funding is designated for three programs: SAAC summer scholarships (to support youth who seek extracurricular enrichment), Art Partners (SAAC’s after-school art education program), and the community grant pool.

“Bridges Out of Poverty is excited to support these programs, which will give access to the arts to youth who may not otherwise have the opportunity,” says President Lynn



Phillips-Gaines. Executive Director John Bateman adds, “I’m extremely excited for this one-time grant from Bridges Out of Poverty in support of specific programs that have tremendous potential impact. With summer scholarships, we can help youth ages 11-18 attend art-related summer camps, lessons, or auditions, as a way to fill in the gaps between the school year. If we help students build creative muscle over time, starting at an early age, then they will be highly competitive when seeking admission and funding for national conservatories and art programs. This, in turn, helps secure the future for talented youth in need. SAAC is extremely grateful for this support.”

For questions on supporting SAAC generally, or any of its specific programs, please contact SAAC at director@starkvillearts.org.

About SAAC

Now commencing its third decade, the Starkville Area Arts Council (SAAC) sponsors the Cotton District Arts Festival, runs various outreach programs, and awards almost \$25,000 each year in grants and scholarships throughout Starkville and Oktibbeha County in its mission to build a strong, creative, connected community through the arts. SAAC appreciates the support of the City of Starkville and the Greater Starkville Development Partnership, Oktibbeha County, National Endowment for the Arts, Mississippi Arts Commission, Visit Mississippi, Del Rendon Foundation, 4-County Electric Foundation, and various local businesses and individuals. Additional information about SAAC can be found at www.starkvillearts.org.

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