



Alabama Touring Artist Program

FREE PERFORMANCES

Formerly
The Rural School Touring Program



201 Monroe Street, Suite 110, Montgomery, Alabama 36104-3721
diana.green@arts.alabama.gov vinnie.watson@arts.alabama.gov

www.arts.alabama.gov



Dear Educator/Administrator

The Alabama State Council on the Arts is pleased to be able to continue offering free in-school performances through our *Alabama Touring Artist Program*. This year, the application and booking process has been simplified to better serve you and your students. Performances are offered by professional Alabama artists, and include a wide range of cultural experiences within the artistic disciplines of music, dance and theatre.

Performances will be available after February 1, 2017 and must be scheduled before the end of school in May. An *Individual Artist Grant*, awarded to your approved artist, will cover the cost of your performance so that you are no longer required to complete paperwork to receive funding. Artists deal directly with the Alabama State Council on the Arts for their fees.

An *Artist Roster for 2017* and an *Alabama Touring Artist Program Application Form* are enclosed. The roster includes a description of each performance, the target age group, a few technical requirements and the availability of each performing artist or group. Using this information to find the best match for your school, you should select a first, second and third choice, listing them in order of priority on your application form.

Performances and artist availability are limited. There are approximately 30 free performances available with artists or groups assigned to five schools each. Performance events will be awarded in order of grant applications received, and established need in region. I encourage you to complete your form immediately and send it to Diana Green, Alabama Touring Artist Program, Alabama State Council on the Arts, 201 Monroe Street, Suite 110, Montgomery, AL 36130-1800 in order for it to arrive no later than September 23rd. Form may be sent as an email attachment to diana.green@arts.alabama.gov or faxed to 1-334-240-3269.

I look forward to working with you and your school. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me at 334/242-4076 ext. 241 or my assistant, Vinnie Watson, at ext. 228.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Diana F. Green'.

Diana F. Green, M.F.A.
Arts in Education Program Manager
Alabama State Council on the Arts
201 Monroe Street, Suite 110
Montgomery, AL 36130-1800
1-334-242-4076 Ext. 241
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SECTION C

ARTIST SELECTION

Please refer to the **Artist Roster** to select your preferences. Early applicants receive priority in artist selection. However, we cannot guarantee that schools will be assigned a preferred artist. All Alabama Artists on this roster have been selected due to their artistic quality and experience working in schools.

PREFERRED ARTISTS
First Choice:
Second Choice:
Third Choice:

SECTION D

ASSURANCES

1. School applicant agrees, if approved, to facilitate the Alabama Touring Artist Program according to **Applicant Instructions** as stated in the Alabama Touring Artist Program brochure, including all required paper work.
2. If approved, ASCA agrees to award the artist with funding to cover artist fee and travel, through an individual artist grant. No school matching funds are required. School applicant will not be required to undertake a financial commitment to ASCA or the artist.
3. School applicant agrees to return **ASCA Confirmation Contract** with dates and times of performances booked. Failure to return Confirmation Contract within two weeks will cause school to forfeit booking. The Confirmation Contract may be submitted electronically by email attachment or FAX using the contact information provided above. Once a school receives and returns an **ASCA Confirmation Contract**, funding to the artist for the performance is guaranteed.
4. **School applicant agrees to complete a performance evaluation form supplied by ASCA no later than 30 days following the performance. Schools that cancel performances without rescheduling, and/or fail to submit an evaluation report will not be eligible for future participation in the program.**

Principal

Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Title _____

School Coordinator (ASCA Contact)

Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Title _____



ARTIST ROSTER

Pre-K – 12th Grade

DANCE ALABAMA!

(Dance)

DEBBIE BOND

Music (Root of the Blues)

RUSSELL GULLEY

Music (Acoustical, original & traditional/Americana)

CHRISTI STRICKLAND TOYER

Storytelling (Music, Theatre, Dance)

UMDABU SOUTH AFRICAN DANCE COMPANY

FEATURING JOHANNES (JOMO) XULU

(Traditional ZULU African Dance)

6 – 12th Grade (only)

RON MCCALL

Theatre (Monologues)

DANCE ALABAMA!

Dance



Dance Alabama! Creates concerts that excite students about the possibilities of dance to create community. The performances exhibit the ways that choreographers see artistic inspiration in everyday life and subsequently turn those moments into works of art. Dance Alabama! has a diverse repertoire of dance works, which include classical ballet, contemporary modern dance and hip-hop mixed with traditional jazz. The ultimate objective of our program is to expose students to a live dance performance that utilizes different styles of contemporary dance.

Dance Alabama! presents concerts that highlight work from University of Alabama student and faculty choreographers. In each performance, there is a mixture of group works, solos, duets and trios that engage students with fantastic partnering as well as a range of movement styles. Following the performances, dancers engage the student audience through dialogue and questions, other times through call and response exercises, or through leading a brief warm-up and creating a short dance with the students.

DANCE ALABAMA!

Dance

Dance Alabama! is an organization on the campus of the University of Alabama dedicated to bringing students together who share a love of dance. Under the guidance of the University of Alabama Department of Theatre & Dance faculty, Dance Alabama! is an outlet for students to participate in various community outreach and service events, make professional connections, and present choreography throughout the state of Alabama. In both Fall and Spring semesters Dance Alabama! holds open auditions for Dance Alabama! performances that occur throughout the academic year. These performances are choreographed and designed by students and faculty and include all genres of dance, ranging from classical ballet, contemporary and hip-hop dance forms. Student choreographers present their works for adjudication by the University of Alabama dance faculty. Dance Alabama! performances are theatrical venues designed to showcase choreography that is conceptually original and technically proficient.



Dance Alabama! is advised by University of Alabama dance professor, Lawrence Jackson. Lawrence received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance from the University of Southern Mississippi and a Master of Fine Arts in dance from Florida State University. Professionally, he devoted several years with the internationally acclaimed modern dance company, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble. Additionally, he has performed as a guest artist in a variety of venues; on the concert stage, PBS television programs, dinner theatres, and summer dance intensives. Jackson has choreographed over 75 original works for the concert stage.

Age Group: Grades Pre-K-12

Technical Requirements: 40' x 20' performance space on a clear, clean, level gymnasium floor or stage (no carpeted surface). Sound system capable of providing sound for performance space... (i.e. sound system/boom box etc.)

Booking Contact:

Lawrence Jackson

(205) 348-4476

Email: lmjackson7@ua.edu

DEBBIE BOND

Music



Blues guitarist, singer and songwriter Debbie Bond, has been presenting innovative blues education programs to students of all ages for over 20 years. She has been mentored by and shared her band with many of Alabama's finest traditional blues musicians, including Johnny Shines, Sam Lay, Eddie Kirkland, Willie King and more. A regular touring musician she has appeared in clubs, festival and listening rooms across the Southeast and toured Europe.

She founded the Alabama Blues Project (ABP) in 1995, a non-profit organization with a mission to preserve and promote Alabama's much neglected, but rich blues heritage. Through the ABP, Bond has presented hundreds of blues education programs throughout Alabama and beyond, impacting tens of thousands of students

over the last 20 years. She has also created touring exhibitions and undertaken unique preservation research on Alabama blues.

Bond received a MA in American Studies from the University of Alabama focusing on the blues and is a regular consultant to researchers, festival, state tourism and film makers. She resigned from directing the ABP in 2013 to focus more on her live music performance and continues to tour and partner with the ABP on school programs, educational workshops and Alabama live blues events.

DEBBIE BOND & THE ALABAMA BLUES PROJECT

Music

The Alabama Blues Project's "Introduction to the Blues" program is a 45-60 minute award-winning interactive, blues educational performance. Featuring an African American blues musician and lead by blues musician and educator Debbie Bond, students will learn about the blues from its origins onwards and how the blues is the root of much contemporary American music.



The program traces the history of the blues from its African influences in slavery times, through sharecropping, the Great Migration and Harlem Renaissance, and on to the electrification of the blues and the birth of rock and roll.

The historical information is accompanied by an interactive educational performance which musically illustrates the story of the blues and its connection to Alabama history and artists from the state including W. C. Handy, Big Mama Thornton and more. Pre and post test forms and relevant Alabama content standards may be furnished upon request.

Age Group: Grades Pre-K-12

Technical Requirements: 20' x 20' performance space on any floor surface. Artist will furnish personal sound system and all equipment needed for the performance.

Booking Contact:

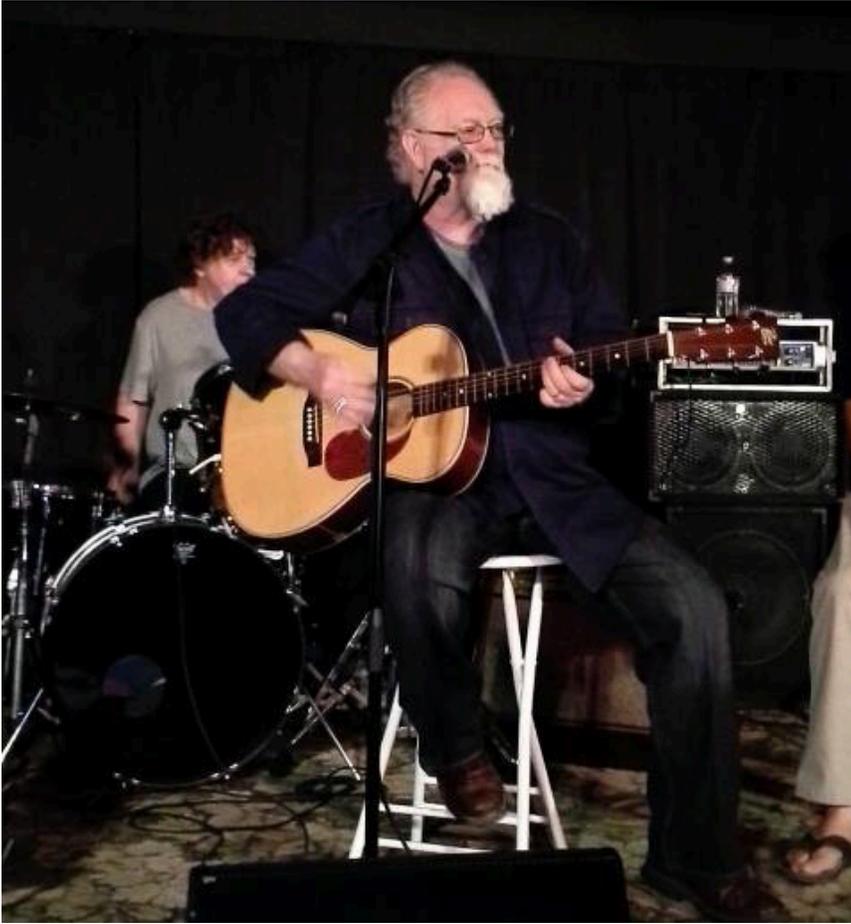
Debbie Bond

(205) 826-0681

Email: debbie@bluesroot.com

RUSSELL GULLEY

Music



Russell Gulley is a veteran Muscle Shoals musician and recording artist who is “Celebrating 40 years of the Muscle Shoals Experience.” He brings his sense of the History of American Popular and Traditional Music to students.

Gulley moved to Muscle Shoals in the early 1970s when the Muscle Shoals music industry was entering its second decade and its second heyday when such artists as Bob Dylan, Bob Segar, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Paul Simon and others were gathering in the studios to record some of the most significant recordings of the era in American Music. Gulley toured nationally, opening for such artists as the Southern Rockers, BlackFoot and Ted Nugent, as well as interna-

tional bands UFO and TRIUMPH. Gulley continues today to perform at festivals, and events where traditional Americana music is heard.

Gulley was trained as a teaching artist by the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts through a grant from the DANA Foundation. He makes his performances interactive for students, keeping them connected to state curriculum content standards, and even customizes them to a school’s expressed needs.

RUSSELL GULLEY

Music



Russell Gulley performs acoustical, original, and traditional Blues/Americana music in the Muscle Shoals Tradition. During performances he discusses the history of Alabama Traditional Music and his personal experiences in the music recording industry, while reflecting on some 40 years as a professional touring musician and songwriter. As a trained teaching artist he is able to connect the performance to the state curriculum standards while providing students with an interactive experience.

Age group: Grades 6-12

Technical Requirements: Minimal requirements including minimal lighting. Artist has his own PA system. Performance space should be 10' x 10' and any floor surface is acceptable.

Booking Contact:

Russell Gulley

(256) 845-0203

Email: russell@russellgulley.com

CHRISTIE STRICKLAND TOYER

Theatre



The performance of Fun Fables and Fantastic Folktales is a work based on the tales of Brer Rabbit, Brer Fox and the Little Boy who cried Wolf. The performance (45 minutes) is crafted with song, dance, and drama. The presentation is interactive incorporating storytelling, demonstration, and response as elements of the performance. The students will be taught a song and dance to sing along with the performers as part of the presentation. A pre-selected student will also receive the opportunity to rehearse and perform with the cast during the presentation.

The lessons taught are a blend of General Music, Theatre and Dance Standards from the Alabama Course of Study for grades Pre-K to 6th, including singing age appropriate music alone/with others (M-4), Recognizing and practicing acceptable audience behavior (T-4), and Combining two or more locomotor movements in a repeating pattern (D-4).

The Presentation will be followed by a 10 to 15 minute talk back session for the students to ask questions of the artist and to be asked questions by the artist.

Age Group: Grades K-6

Technical Requirements: 25' x 20' performance space

Booking Contact:

Christi Toyer

(205) 948-4029

Email: christitoyer@gmail.com

CHRISTIE STRICKLAND TOYER (Actor/Director) received a BA in Theatre Arts from Alabama State University. She continued her study in a three-year professional internship at the St. Louis Black Repertory Theatre Company (St. Louis, Missouri).

Mrs. Toyer holds professional credits as an actor, stage manager, makeup artist, wig stylist, and director. She is the founder and Artistic Director of the Birmingham based Plays on the Go Touring Company (PGTC). PGTC presents plays from their children's repertoire in elementary schools throughout Jefferson County, and also produces/programs acting classes, theatre workshops and drama residencies for grades 3-8

MELISSA BALDWIN (Actor/Production Assistant) studied Theatre Arts at Alabama State University under Dr. Tonea Stewart. Since 2005, she has performed regularly with the Birmingham Children's Theatre, Summerfest Musical Theatre, Terrific New Theatre, Magic City Actors Theatre, and Milk & Cookies production Company.



UMDABU SOUTH AFRICAN DANCE

FEATURING JOHANNES (JOMO) XULU

The Umdabu South African Dance Company is proud to present, “Qhinamasiko” (Persevere the Culture) featuring founder and artistic director Johannes “Jomo” Xulu. Jomo is a veteran dancer, drummer, and choreographer from Kwa-Thema, South Africa, which is a city right outside of Johannesburg.

Jomo takes the students and teachers on a wonderful journey through the culture of South Africa. Umdabu believes “you can’t truly experience a culture unless you participate.”

“Qhinamasiko” is a presentation that involves a great deal of audience participation, so the students/teachers will be singing, speaking Zulu words and dancing.



UMDABU SOUTH AFRICAN DANCE

FEATURING JOHANNES (JOMO) XULU

The Umdabu Dance Company is dedicated to preservation and presentation of South African history and culture.

Jomo Xulu, the director of the group includes in the performance Zulu dances, and a step dance done by mine workers using their boots as their percussion instruments. His performance concludes with instructing the audience through a few dances, and everyone getting up and trying them out.

Umdabu presents the dances within their social, cultural and historical context, by way of theatrical productions, workshops, residencies and lectures.

Age Group: Grades K-12

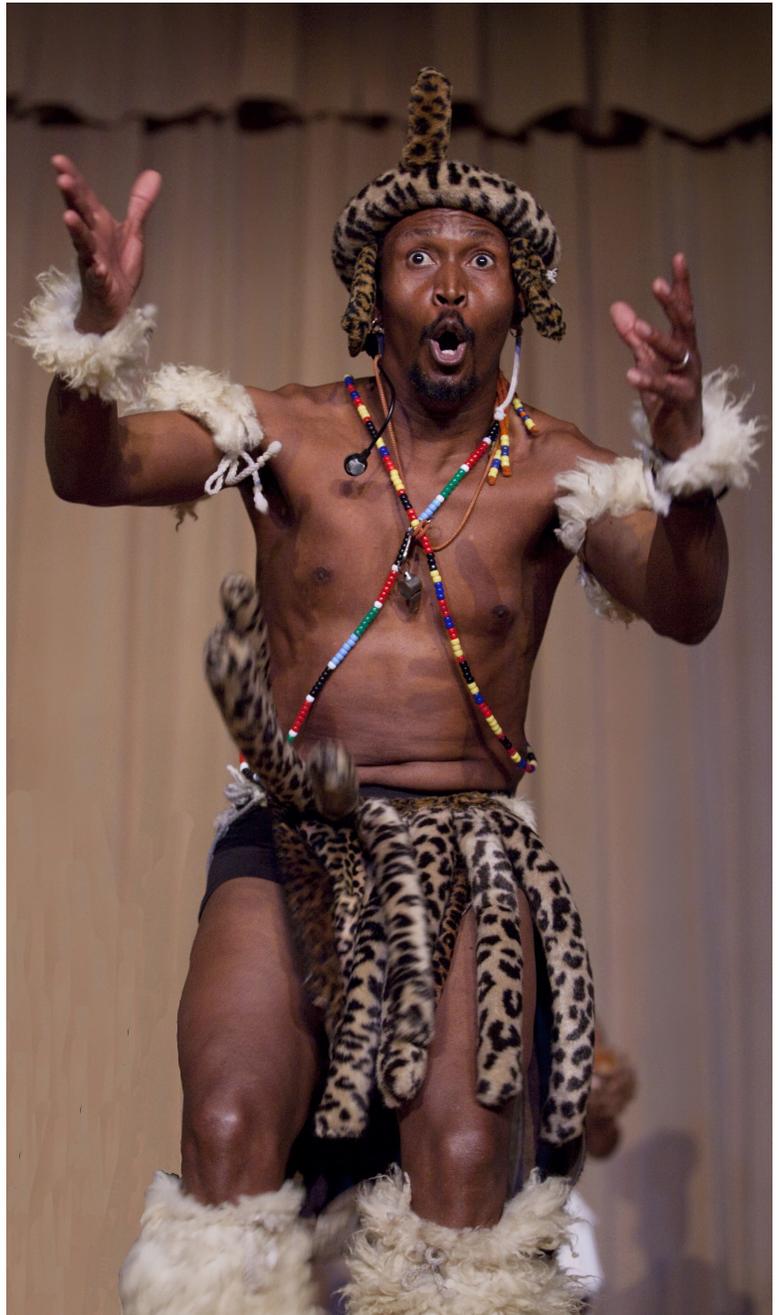
Technical Requirements: Sound system providing adequate sound for performance space. Three (3) microphones requested with one (1) being a cordless microphone. 12 x 12 Performance Space.

Booking Contact:

Asha B. Xulu

(205) 370-6258

Email: xuluasha27@gmail.com



RONALD McCALL

Theatre



“MY BROTHERS AND ME”...is a unique compilation of historical and documented works quilted together through characters created in Old Man Cephus McQueen’s stories of his fictional yet truth based brothers. This riveting one-man multi-character drama speaks to the reality of those life defining moments found in the everyday walks of life of the African American male.

Age Group: Grades 6-12

Technical Requirements: CD player, Audio Speaker and microphone; 12 x 12 Performance Space

Booking Contact:

Ron McCall

(334) 315-5618

Email: act1sing2@gmail.com

RONALD McCALL is an award winning actor, recipient of the 2003 Giorgee Award for Best Leading Actor in a Drama. He is also an accomplished vocalist, director and teaching artist. Ronald has a wide range of experience spanning film, television and such theatre credits as *Two Wars*, *Dream Girls*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, *Blues For An Alabama Sky*, *Raisin in The Sun*, *Crowns*, *Blues In The Night*, *Purlie*, *Five Guys Named Moe*, *Black Man Live Again* and *Fences* for which the *Houston Chronicle* wrote... "McCall demonstrates the authoritative presence, dramatic range and variety of delivery and expression needed to fill out the larger-than-life role of Troy Maxson." Film and TV credits include *Fried Green Tomatoes*, *The Heat of the Night*, *Urban Crossfire*, *Mutant Species*, *Sheena*, *Momma Flora's Family*, *A Lesson Before Dying*, *The Rosa Parks Story*, *Skeleton Key* and *Honey Dripper*. He currently tours with *Wideman/Davis Dance NY* as one of the principle actors in "The Bends Of Life" which has received great reviews from the *New York Times*.



As a teaching and performing artist, Ronald is currently providing residencies for K-12 schools in and around the Black Belt area. He also provides arts integration in the classroom, professional development for school teachers, directorial services for school productions and actual performances of his one man show, "My Brothers and Me."



The Alabama State Council on the Arts is pleased to announce a new pilot program for Arts in Education. Schools may begin the application process each August. Applications will be accepted until funds are expended.

Schools who would like to explore the process of working through the arts to increase student success are invited to apply now for the Collaborating Artist Program. The Program is designed to support schools by offering an innovative way to address a unique challenge identified by each school.

The program provides an intensive arts integration experience for a small target group of students and teachers. The Council is committed to provide:

- Trained teaching artists that will work with teachers to design a unit of study together.
- On-going Council support of an arts curriculum consultant throughout the program.
- A program handbook to follow, with clear step-by-step procedures.
- Fully paid artist fees (schools pay artists using grant funding from the Council)

School should be willing to commit:

1. Finances:

- Schools pay substitutes to cover teachers' classes for one full day of planning.
- Schools secure materials and supplies needed by the artist (usually no more than \$300 - may find donated items).
- Schools provide travel and accommodations for artists only if the artist resides more than one hour from the school.
- Schools commit to expenses (if any) for a community sharing event and an in-service for full faculty.

2. Personnel:

- A group of 1-6 teachers (in a common grade level or subject area) that are willing to explore new approaches to teaching through the arts. Teachers need to be active in this process. (Note: because teachers are active learners in this program, schools may wish to consider using Title funding for professional development to enhance the program)
- Program coordinator – one school staff person assigned as Council/artist contact and record keeper.

3. Time: school chooses 3 or 4 weeks of daily instruction. Each class meets for this program once each day during the residency. Included is a community sharing event and a full faculty in-service provided by the artist.

To apply contact Diana Green at 334-242-4076, ext. 241 or by email at diana.green@arts.alabama.gov

Here is your opportunity to support and get on board with...

Creatively Innovating Alabama's Future

Alabama State Council on the Arts
201 Monroe Street, Suite 110
Montgomery, AL 36013
diana.green@arts.alabama.gov
Fax: 334-240-3269



The Artistic Literacy Consortium

The Artistic Literacy Consortium is a group of Alabama organizations and citizens with a mission ***to provide fully funded high-quality arts education that enlightens, inspires, and develops in every Alabama student the creative and innovative thinking necessary to ensure college and career readiness.*** It is the result of two years of work accomplished by the Arts Education Leadership Team, a task force established by Al Head, Executive Director of the Alabama State Council on the Arts, and Dr. Tommy Bice, State Superintendent of Alabama Schools.

The purpose of the ***Artistic Literacy Consortium*** is to make collective impact for arts education in the state of Alabama. As a consortium, members join to combine resources to accomplish a shared mission with the desired outcome of providing *artistic literacy* for every Alabama student.

Literacy indicates knowledge and competence in a specific language system or field. It requires a lifelong, intellectual process of gaining understanding. In the arts, literacy is the ability to “read” a work of art and to understand how to find meaning through that work of art. It is also the ability to create a work of art using the appropriate symbol system to be understood by others.

The responsibility to provide high quality arts education for every student is not limited to any one stakeholder. Success requires the collective impact of multiple and diverse stakeholders. Each stakeholder, whether working locally or statewide, has the power to make measureable progress toward the mission and goals of the Artistic Literacy Consortium. To do so, consortium members should, when appropriate, align their efforts and agree to track progress through a shared evaluation system.



STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Organization Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

As a consortium member, our organization is committed to the shared mission of the Artistic Literacy Consortium with the desired combined outcome of providing *artistic literacy* for every Alabama student.

We agree when appropriate and as resources become available, to align our efforts in support of arts education in the State of Alabama toward one or more of the Consortium Goals.

We further agree that when we align our efforts in support of arts education, we will participate in the shared evaluation system in order to track progress and help others learn from our efforts.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

(Authorizing Official)

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

This signature signifies a formal endorsement of the Artistic Literacy Consortium and its mission **to provide fully funded high-quality arts education that enlightens, inspires, and develops in every Alabama student the creative and innovative thinking necessary to ensure college and career readiness.**

Mail, email or fax completed forms to Diana Green at: **Alabama State Council on the Arts**, 201 Monroe Street, Suite 110, Montgomery, AL 36013; diana.green@arts.alabama.gov; Fax: 334-240-3269