2015 Annual Report
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The Mission of the Alabama State Council on the Arts is to

enhance the quality of life and economic vitality

for all Alabamians by providing support

for the state’s diverse and rich artistic resources.
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ALABAMA STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS
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It seems irreconcilable differences and challenges in state government dominated a lot of the headlines in 2015. The problems are impacting both public officials who are grappling with solutions and individuals struggling with hardships related to budget shortfall issues. Since there is clearly high frustration among almost all Alabamians regarding these mostly negative conditions, this year’s report from the State Council on the Arts, in contrast, will focus on many positives worth noting and celebrating.

So, with celebrating in mind, 2015 marked another year for the Council’s “Celebration of the Arts” biennial awards program. The program was again held at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival which has proven to be the ideal setting for the black tie event honoring Alabamians who have contributed significantly to the arts in the state. The line-up of recipients included a legend in the music recording industry, a world famous and award-winning author, two major patrons and community leaders in the arts, a much beloved traditional musician and teacher, and a nationally respected choral director, instructor and critically acclaimed vocalist. These recipients represent the scope and breadth of artistic diversity, talent, leadership and generosity that has enhanced the cultural landscape of Alabama for decades. They give us reason to be proud and grateful for their many accomplishments. The 2015 recipients were:

**Governor’s Arts Award**
- Mack Gibson – Troy
- Winston Groom – Fairhope
- Rick Hall – Muscle Shoals

**Folk Heritage Award**
- Herb Trotman – Birmingham

**Distinguished Artist Award**
- Dr. Everett McCorvey – Montgomery/Lexington KY

**Lifetime Achievement Award**
- Theresa Harper Bruno – Birmingham

An outstanding group of Alabama artists provided performance tributes to each of the recipients during an evening that was truly a celebration of the arts.

Other stars shining on Alabama in the arena of recognition for artistic achievement included three Gees Bend quilters who received the National Heritage Award given by the National Endowment for the Arts in Washington, DC. The three ladies singled out among a group of outstanding quilters from Boykin, Alabama were; Mary Lee Bendolph, Lucy Mingo and Loretta Pettway. The award ceremony took place at the Library of Congress on October 1st, with both Senator Jeff Sessions and Congresswoman Terri Sewell present to congratulate the quilters and emphasize the high honor being bestowed on them. A program of live interviews and performances followed the next night featuring all of the award recipients at Lisner Auditorium on the George Washington University campus. Alabama and its rich tradition of quilting put the state in the national spotlight again giving us reason to feel very proud. The Gees Bend quilters make twelve Alabamians receiving this prestigious award since its inception in 1982.

Keeping with the theme of celebration, the year 2015 marks the 30th anniversary of my tenure as executive director of the State Council on the Arts. My wife Judy and I came back home in 1985 after having spent thirteen years away from the state in Florida (1972-77) and in Louisiana from 1977-1985, both in positions with state arts agencies. In March of 2015 the Alabama Council on the Arts recognized my time as director at our meeting in Tuscaloosa. I told the Council at that occasion
that the most significant take-away from the last thirty years had been the relationships established with countless numbers of talented, generous, hard-working and supportive individuals. So many of the relationships I deeply value have been with past and current council members.

Since my time back in Alabama the agency and the arts community have benefitted from exceptional Council leadership. When I came to Montgomery in February of 1985, Fred Delchamps from Mobile was the chairman. After Fred’s death, his wife Ann filled his unexpired term and later became chairman in the following years. They were both outstanding individuals and members of the Council. Lyndra Daniel from Birmingham was on the Council when I came in 1985. She served three terms (18 years) and held every officer position over that expanse of time including chair. She received the Council’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013. Including our current Chair, Vaughn Morrissette, the Council has five current members who have served in the chairman’s position: Ralph Frohsin (Alexander City), Julie Friedman (Fairhope), Becky Quinn (Huntsville) and Jim Harrison III (Tuscaloosa). Collectively these dedicated individuals have served the Council for over seventy-five years and all have provided outstanding leadership. The honor role of great members is too long to list here but a few names like Joe McInnes (Montgomery), Roberta Gamble (Greenville), Jim Inscoe (Montgomery), Allen Bales (Tuscaloosa), Philip Sellers (Montgomery), Frank Morring (Huntsville), Jamie Sledge (Gadsden), Bernice Price (Montgomery) and Bob Lawrence (Troy) come to mind as notable individuals who have insured the continuity of leadership over my thirty years. My thanks and respect runs deep to past and present council members.

Leadership of the Council for FY-2015 has come under the able heads and hands of Mrs. Vaughn Morissette, chairman
from Mobile, Mrs. Dora James, vice chairman from Opelika, Mr. Joel Daves IV, secretary from Mobile, Mrs. Rachel Fowler, grants review committee chairman from Columbiana, Mr. Doug Purcell, long range planning committee chairman from Eufaula and Mr. Jim Harrison III, immediate past chair from Tuscaloosa. These individuals constituted the executive committee and in that capacity provided great direction for the staff and the fellow members of the Council.

At times we beat ourselves up over things in the state that could and should be better but, I am increasingly convinced there are a significant number of amazing people doing great things in Alabama. From my vantage point the arts and the entire cultural landscape in Alabama have improved in important ways over the last thirty years. Nationally recognized artists, highly respected museums, outstanding symphony orchestras, award-winning dance companies, one of the best Shakespeare theatre companies in the nation, local arts agencies serving diverse populations and some arts education programs that are national models contribute to a vibrant quality of life in Alabama.

Alabama’s cultural landscape is one of our greatest assets that can and should be nurtured. Investing in this asset can be a public/private partnership that will pay major dividends in the future. With all the disagreement over priorities for the allocation of state resources, the legislature for the last two years has provided modest increases to the Council and the arts in communities statewide through our matching grants program. The programs, artists, schools and communities being supported will create a win-win effect that can help the water rise for everyone. And yes, the arts in Alabama are something to be proud of and celebrate.
As a native of Mobile and one who knows Alabama pretty well, I am increasingly reminded of how our state is blessed with a rich culture and an abundance of creative people. I have had the privilege and honor to serve on the Council for twelve years. As current chairman, it has been inspiring to witness the positive impact of ASCA’s grant support on schools, students, individual artists, communities and arts organizations statewide. The innovative ways in which resources are utilized in making the arts accessible to those that might not otherwise be exposed is so rewarding to observe first-hand. The arts also strengthen the economy, drive tourism and business, and improve academic performance of students. If Alabama is to prepare students as members of the workforce of the future, we must continue to recognize how the arts promote creative thinking and problem solving that businesses require in this ever changing global economy.

The Council’s mission is to enhance the quality of life and economic vitality for all Alabamians by providing support for the state’s diverse and rich artistic resources. The arts are such a valuable part of our lives and it is incumbent upon all of us: artists, patrons, consumers, promoters and elected officials to continue to support and expand the broadest spectrum of the arts. Each council member works to fulfill this mission during their tenure on the board and they are a valuable resource to the people in the region in which they reside. Council members deeply appreciate the work of Al Head and his staff. Their effort to provide technical assistance and professional guidance which encourages new ideas and projects is extremely important. This assistance covers hundreds of communities and organizations programming and presenting projects in the folk arts, visual arts, arts education, literature, design and performing arts. A genuine commitment to quality by the staff and Council helps artists and presenting organizations achieve a high level of professional excellence.

In May of 2015, the Council presented its “Celebration of the Arts” awards program, held at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery. Every other year the Council recognizes outstanding individuals who have made significant contributions to the arts and our state. During this awards ceremony, selected honorees are spotlighted for their achievements and presented with an evening of performances and visual images that celebrate their body of work and momentous offerings to the arts. The special evening highlighted the work of a legend in the music recording industry (Rick Hall of Muscle Shoals); a world famous and award-winning author (Winston Groom of Mobile/Point Clear); two major arts patrons (Jim Hudson of Huntsville and Theresa Harper Bruno of Birmingham); a community leader in the arts (Mack Gibson of Troy); a much beloved traditional musician (Herb Trotman of Birmingham) and nationally respected choral director, instructor and critically acclaimed vocalist (Dr. Everett McCorvey). These special individuals represent the scope and breadth of artistic diversity, talent, leadership and generosity that is an integral part of the cultural landscape of Alabama.

I have served on many boards of directors both in and outside of Alabama. I have had the opportunity to be part of many great projects, organizations and important causes worthy of public and private support and I have visited many different regions of our country and the world and have known many outstanding individuals. From my many years of experience I can honestly say, our state is blessed with wonderful human and natural resources. Our challenge is to invest in these resources, preserve our heritage, foster positive growth, and create greater appreciation for a truly unique culture. Let’s continue the work to fulfill the mission of the Council on the Arts and broaden the quality of life through the arts for all Alabamians.

Vaughan I. Morrissette
BOARD CHAIR
The Alabama State Council on the Arts is committed to supporting efforts that provide artistic and creative literacy for all students. The Arts in Education program seeks to incorporate the arts as an essential component of the educational experience for all Alabama students in preschool through 12th grade. Opportunities are offered through grants, initiatives, and technical assistance. The program enjoys a strong partnership with the Alabama State Department of Education, the Alabama Alliance for Arts Education and the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts.

Through the Council’s competitive grants program, funding is available for educational projects that advance the role of the arts as essential to student learning. Curriculum-Based Project Grants are awarded for projects that include a focus on standards-based curriculum. Funding is used to enhance the quality of arts curriculum in PreK-12 schools through support for activities such as arts instruction, performances, exhibits, professional development, and artist residencies that promote learning in and through the arts. Smaller Enhancement Grants are provided for schools and organizations engaging in arts exposure and arts enrichment activities, such as performances, field trips, or professional development workshops. Funds may be used for transportation, tickets, presenter fees, workshop fees, and other direct costs related to the enhancement activities.

**Special Programs and Initiatives**

The Alabama Touring Artist Program provides opportunities for a limited number of underserved schools to book a performance by an Alabama performing artist or group. These performances include study guides that help teachers connect the performance to on-going curriculum through preparation and follow-up activities. This program is free to schools and does not require matching funds. In FY-2015, twenty schools from nine rural counties booked performances by Children’s Dance Foundation, Nathifa Dance Company, Eric Essix, Russell Gulley, Ron McCall and Christy Strickland Toyer.

The Arts in Schools Program is available by application to the fifteen Black Belt school systems including Bullock, Choctaw, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Perry, Pickens, Sumter, and Wilcox Counties as well as Demopolis City, Linden City, and Selma City. Priority is given to proposals that communicate activities of artistic excellence and address a specific need. Grantees in FY-2015 focused funding on professional development for teachers, and artist residencies.

The Collaborating Artist Program is an initiative for schools that would like to explore the process of working through the arts to increase student success. The Program is designed to support schools by offering an innovative way to address a unique learning challenge identified by each school. The program provides intensive arts integration for a target group of students. The Council provides training for teaching artists and classroom teachers, on-going support in arts curriculum design, a program handbook, and fully paid artist fees. In FY-2015 eight schools participated in this pilot program.

The Visual Arts Achievement Program provides local and state recognition for student achievement in the visual arts. The program is designed to
offer encouragement to young artists by showcasing their work and offering opportunities for advanced training beyond high school. It awards exceptional students in grades 6 through 12 that are participating in arts programs within their academic institutions. In FY-2015 over 1500 students participated within six districts statewide, with over 90 works being exhibited in the Georgine Clarke Alabama Artists Gallery in Montgomery. Five high school seniors were awarded scholarships to higher education institutions.

Poetry Out Loud, a national initiative founded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, celebrated its 10th anniversary in 2015. Alabama honored this momentous occasion by inviting Youssef Biaz, our 2011 National Champion, to speak to new participants at the state finals at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. To prepare for the state finals, regional partners in Mobile, Auburn, Tuscaloosa and Huntsville provided workshops for teachers and students in the interpretation, recitation and writing of poetry. Alabama holds a State Original Poetry Recitation Competition alongside the National program. In FY-2015, the winner of the State Original Poetry competition was Elizabeth Balch-Crystal from Auburn High School. Her teacher was Davis Thompson. Alabama State Champion was Nicole Louw from Holy Spirit High School in Tuscaloosa. Her teacher was Jonathan Loper. We were proud to have Nicole representing Alabama in Washington DC, where she competed with 52 other champions representing each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. She placed in the final round of the regional semi-finals, of which there were only three. The National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation provide travel to the nation’s Capitol for each state champion and chaperone.

The Council provides professional development opportunities for Alabama teachers, artists and arts organizations through the efforts of its partners, the Alabama Alliance for Arts Education and the Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts. These organizations do summer workshops and provide ongoing embedded professional development in the schools throughout the year. Their work provides substantial support to schools, artists and organizations that wish to collaborate to increase opportunities for students to engage in meaningful arts learning experiences.

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, recently created the Artistic Literacy Consortium, 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. Its purpose is to make a collective impact for arts education in Alabama. Members join to combine resources to accomplish a shared mission with the desired outcome of providing artistic literacy for every Alabama student.

The task force also created a statewide plan to advance this mission. The plan is not limited to the Council or the State Department of Education, but calls upon all stakeholders, whether working locally or statewide, to make measurable progress toward the mission and goals of the Artistic Literacy Consortium. To do so, Consortium members are asked to align their efforts, and agree to track progress through a shared evaluation system.
The community is where people and the arts intersect. Early encounters with children’s theater or hearing music at a downtown festival may spark a child’s interest in the arts. Hands-on experience in classes and workshops sparks creativity in both children and adults. Well-designed public spaces foster a sense of community by providing places where the arts may be created or viewed. Public planning for good design results in communities with well-used, aesthetically pleasing public spaces.

The grants offered through the Community Arts Program facilitate these and many other kinds of artistic intersections through various categories of support.

General Operating Support grants enable eligible organizations to provide programming, planning, and support for the arts and artists in their communities. The Arts and Humanities Council of Tuscaloosa County, which operates the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center and the Bama Theater exemplifies an organization which combines artistic disciplines in a dynamic way to provide diverse programs for the community. Another Operating Support grantee, The Children’s Dance Foundation, offers a range of core programs based on the belief that dance is a foundation for life and learning. These include the Community Partnership Program, Studio Program, School Touring Program, and Studio Space Use Program for local artists.

Project grants once again supported a varied range of events and activities around Alabama. In Stockton, the Stockton Heritage Association expanded their Sawmill Days Festival to include the work of self-taught artists including Charlie Lucas and Mary Proctor. Tuscumbia’s Oka Kapassa Festival provided programs at the Florence and Killen public libraries before the festival, drawing additional visitors to the weekend event. The Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project offered classes in visual arts, creative writing and performance in several prisons around the state. Administrative project grants provided staff assistance for the Alabama Blues Project in Tuscaloosa and the Pastime Theater in Winfield. Arts Councils in Tallassee, Troy, and Enterprise brought musicians and performers to their towns through presenting grants.

Arts and Cultural Facilities grants enable organizations to plan, design, and construct new spaces for the arts or the adaptive reuse of an existing space. Arts-Revive in Selma continued their work on the Carneal Building, stabilizing their riverfront courtyard and building ADA compliant restrooms and a conference room. In Roanoke, the Roanoke Rotary Charities organization was the catalyst for the conversion of a burned-out movie theater into an open air amphitheater and public gathering space. Masonry walls of Birmingham’s historic Lyric Theatre were restored through a Cultural Facilities grant to Birmingham Landmarks, Inc.

The 2015 Arts Administration Fellowship recipient was Toney Russell Gulley, executive director of the Big Wills Arts Council in Fort Payne. Mr. Gulley’s fellowship project was to study and initiate the development of a cultural center at the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Building. He consulted with administrators, artists, and curators around the state who offered insights from their experiences in managing and curating spaces. Attending the Backstage Conference in Hattiesburg, MS and the Bill Bates Leadership Conference afforded Mr. Gully opportunities to meet and network with experienced arts administrators.

ASCA expands its reach through its partnerships with statewide organizations. DesignAlabama is a partner in promoting the benefits of excellence in design to communities throughout the state. DesignAlabama continued.
to push forward in 2015 with their mission of advocating for the design arts and their importance in building places and communities. They began 2015 by enacting a new strategic plan. Among its features are a change in their communication and publication efforts and an initiative to get back into Alabama’s communities more frequently through their programming.

Since the first issue was printed nearly 25 years ago, the Journal has become the premier program of the organization and how most people know DesignAlabama. It has had a larger impact than Philip Morris or Nancy Hartsfield, founding board members of DA and the vision behind the journal, could have ever imagined. It not only changed the way people in Alabama think about design, but it began to change how others thought about Alabama design. Starting in January 2016, DA will come to everyone more frequently with a monthly newsletter.

The 10th annual DesignAlabama Mayors Design Summit, was held February 11th-12th in Opelika, hosting the mayors of Opelika, Ashford, Eufaula and Heflin for an event that examined real design and planning issues in their communities. DesignAlabama also began the planning for a project to take place in 2016, titled Connectivity. Connectivity will be a series of regional design charrettes throughout Alabama to be held in conjunction with the Year of Made-in-Alabama planned by the Department of Tourism. Funded in part by a $50,000 grant from the National Endowment of the Arts, the charrettes will examine local/regional assets for collective reasons to visit Alabama’s great small towns. The goal of this project is to create itineraries and long-range plans to help regions develop their assets/attractations; identify tools for recruiting the amenities necessary for tourism; and create livable places. DesignAlabama also participated in several other events throughout the year including the Annual League of Municipalities Conference, Southern Makers, and Design Week Birmingham.

The Black Belt Community Foundation is another important partner. The Black Belt Arts Initiative is the artistic division of the Foundation. Black Belt Arts Alive!, the arts and culture committee for the BBCF, has established four goals to further the arts in the twelve Black Belt counties that the BBCF serves.

1. Work in partnership with local community based organizations to forge collaborations with local schools to advance arts education,
2. Document and promote the region’s artistic assets.
3. Assist arts organizations in becoming more efficient and effective.
4. Provide opportunities for citizens of the Black Belt region to be exposed to and participate in the arts.

Through their partnership with ASCA, BBCF awarded $60,000 to 23 organizations at a ceremony held on the campus of Selma High School with more than 100 Black Belt residents in attendance.

Grant funding in 2015 went to in-school, after school, and summer arts education programs, professional development, and arts exposure. For example, Read, Think, Create!, a summer arts program which combined visual arts and literature, was supported at the Demopolis Public Library. Tale Tellin’ in the Schools, which partners the Alabama Tale Tellin’ Festival with the Selma City Schools and Selma Public Library to expose Dallas County students to the art of storytelling, was funded. The Tuskegee Repertory Theatre received funding to support the production and presentation of the play, The Wives of Booker T.

Staff attends many of the events that are made possible through Black Belt Arts Initiative grants, such as the Okra Festival (Lowndes County), the Black Belt Folk Roots Festival (Greene County) and the Spider Martin Exhibition and Lecture Series (Dallas County). Program manager for the arts, Jo Taylor, routinely stays in touch with the art grantees either through site visits or emails. As part of many site visits to community-based organizations, Jo teaches and models visual arts lessons to students and instructors.
The Alabama Center for Traditional Culture and Folklife Grants Program

The Alabama Center for Traditional Culture (ACTC) is the folklife division of ASCA and is staffed by Joey Brackner, Jackie Ely, Steve Grauberger and Anne Kimzey. The Center is both a grants-making office and research group working to identify, preserve, and present Alabama folk arts and traditions. We work closely with the Alabama Folklife Association, our statewide non-profit partner in achieving our goals. Alabama folklife consists of those aspects of our state’s culture that are traditional and are learned within communities from generation to generation. As a result, these cultural traditions reflect community values and aesthetics. Folklife includes folk arts such as traditional crafts, music and dance, as well as regional foodways, folk architecture, beliefs, storytelling, myths, and medicinal practices. Folklife is regional, reflecting the process of adaptation by various ethnic groups to a geographical area. Because it is a product of a historical and geographical process, Alabama folklife, in its many facets, uniquely reflects the personality of our state and its communities. Through the staff of the Alabama Center for Traditional Culture, ASCA works to identify folk traditions and present them through educational products such as television and radio programs, documentary CDs, traveling exhibits, lectures, and publications. Folklife represents a large part of the content of the Alabama Arts Radio Series produced with WTSU Public Radio and Journey Proud produced with Alabama Public Television. The Center’s Folklife Project Grants Program supports non-profit organizations in projects seeking to present and preserve the state’s folk culture.

During Fiscal Year 2015, the Folklife Project Grants Program supported the after school and summer camps of the Alabama Blues Project, a nationally award-winning program in Tuscaloosa. The Sucarnochee Folklife Festival produced by the University of West Alabama in Livingston, the fourth annual Wiregrass Blues Festival in Dothan sponsored by Troy University and the well-established Freedom Creek Blues Festival in Aliceville were aided by ASCA. Project grants were also made for the Jake Landers Bluegrass Festival at the Ritz Theater in Sheffield, the Warrior River Fiddler Fest in Northport and for the live radio/television performances of the Sucarnochee Revue in Livingston. In the Wiregrass, grants were made in support of the Pike Piddler’s Storytelling Festival sponsored by the Brundidge Historical Society. Teaching workshops made possible by Folklife Projects Grants included the Lee County Gathering in Loachapoka and two sessions of Camp Fasola held in Anniston and Nauvoo.

Folk Arts Apprenticeship Grants are given to master folk artists for teaching their art forms. Prospective students who have entered into an agreement with a master folk artist may also apply for an Apprenticeship grant. Apprenticeships are one of the primary preservation tools of the Alabama Folklife Program. They are designed to ensure the transmission of a diversity of folk skills using the traditional master apprenticeship system. This year’s teaching grants were awarded to sev-
eral quilt makers including a number of the celebrated quilters of Gee’s Bend as well as two traditional potters, a hunting decoy carver, a Mobile brass band instructor, a banjo instructor and a Bharatanatyam (classical Indian) dance master.

The Alabama Folk Heritage Award recognizes an outstanding traditional artist every other year as part of ASCA’s Celebration of the Arts Awards program. This year, musician Herb Trotman was honored at the May 2015 Celebration of the Arts for his lifelong career as a bluegrass and old-time musician and his role in encouraging this music in the Birmingham area.

Accomplishments during FY-2015 include:

The Alabama Center for Traditional Culture staff worked closely with Alabama Public Television in developing, writing, shooting and editing the second season of a television series profiling a wide variety of Alabama community traditions. Called Journey Proud, the series premiered on October 20, 2013. The series will be produced for at least five seasons. You can view programs at: journeyproudalabama.com.

The Center staff worked close-ly with the Alabama Folklife Association (AFA) in hosting two statewide Sacred Harp singings in Montgomery. The Rotunda Singing, held at the Alabama Department of Archives and History is held each winter and the Capitol City Shape Note Singing is held each July.

The Alabama Arts Radio Series which Steve Grauberger, folklorist for the Council, continues to produce for its weekly airing on the Southeastern Public Radio Network. Other public radio stations are also airing the series across the state. You can listen to past programs at: www.alabamaartsradio.com.

The staff made nominations of Alabamians for the National Heritage Fellowship awarded annually by the National Endowment for the Arts. As a consequence, Gee’s Bend Quilters Mary Lee Bendolph, Lucy Mingo and Loretta Pettway won a 2015 National Heritage Fellowship from the NEA. The award honors those who have made significant contribution to the preservation and awareness of cultural heritage.

The Archive of Alabama Folk Culture (AAFC) was founded in 2006 at the Alabama Department of Archives and History with the cooperation of the Center and the AFA. The Archive houses field documentation generated by the AFA, ACTC, and others. In 2011, Kevin Nutt was named folklife archivist at the AAFC. In fiscal year 2013, AFA was awarded $165,900.00 in grant funds from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, as recommended by the Center for Library and Information Resources. This enabled the AAFC to hire Weston Flippo who started work in January of 2013 and will continue working until 2015 transferring collections from ACTC to the AAFC.

The economic downturn of late 2008-2009 forced the Center staff to abandon plans to present Alabama as a featured state at the 2010 Smithsonian Folklife Festival. However, the staff, along with AFA, used fieldwork from this effort in the now-dormant journal Tributaries, as well as various public presentations such as the interactive exhibit “Alabama in the Making: Traditional Arts of People and Place” currently touring the state. The exhibit produced by the AFA with input from ACTC staff features imbedded IPads where visitors can explore audio and video fieldwork from different regions of Alabama. The AFA continued this format with their most recent exhibit entitled “‘We’ll All Sing Hallelujah,’ Sacred Sounds of Alabama” which has been touring ever since its opening in Columbiana on March 15, 2014.
The Alabama State Council on the Arts increases awareness of the state’s literary heritage through its support of contemporary Alabama writers, including creative nonfiction writers, novelists, poets, and writers for children. Many literature programs for the general public featured diverse arts education components within schools and workshop settings. In FY-2015, ASCA funded literary project grants and individual artist fellowship awards. It supported a statewide partner organization, the Alabama Writers’ Forum. ASCA also provided information and technical assistance to writers and organizations promoting the literary arts.

To support ASCA’s mission for literary arts, the Alabama Writers’ Forum served constituents statewide and partnered with nonprofit, educational and state government entities to provide programs such as the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame, the annual Alabama Book Festival, the Harper Lee Award for Alabama’s Distinguished Writer of the Year, the High School Literary Arts Awards and extensive networking of writers and literary arts venues through its digital communications. The Forum completed its eighteenth year of Writing Our Stories, an award-winning creative writing program for adjudicated youth in partnership with the Alabama Department of Youth Services. Conducted on two Youth Services campuses and employing professional creative writers in classrooms, Writing Our Stories reached more than 150 youth and resulted in three publications of student work. Writing Our Stories was also conducted for a full semester in the Shelby County School System with students at Columbiana Middle School and Montevallo Middle School.

On June 8, 2015 the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame inducted an inaugural class of twelve internationally celebrated Alabama authors whose work spans three centuries. These initial inductees include Johnson Jones Hooper, Augusta Jane Evans Wilson, Helen Keller, Zora Neale Hurston, William March, Albert Murray, Helen Norris Bell, Andrew Glaze, Harper Lee, Sonia Sanchez, Sena Jeter Naslund and Rick Bragg. The Alabama Writers’ Forum, The Alabama Center for the Book and The University of Alabama Library Leadership Board partnered to produce a gala induction ceremony at the Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa. For more information on the Alabama Writers Hall of Fame see: www.writersforum.org/hall-of-fame.

In FY-2015, ASCA funded a number of programs to promote an appreciation of the literary arts among the general reading public and to benefit emerging writers. The Birmingham Public Library was particularly innovative in encouraging the writing and performance of poetry by youth and adults. The Teen Poetry Initiative expanded the library’s effort to develop teen poets. It included the annual Word Up! poetry slam, which had more than 150 students from 12 high schools participating in the project. The library also partnered with Real Life Poets, a nonprofit creative writing group, to provide weekly poetry workshops to more than 50 teens. The Birmingham Public Library also engaged adults in a series of monthly poetry slams and open mic performances throughout the year. Bards & Brews offered light refreshments and a public setting for community poets to share their original work. Poets ranging in ages from 18 to 70 performed in the series and the events attracted diverse audiences, averaging 122 attendees per event.

Auburn University hosted the Auburn Writers Conference October 18-19, 2014, an event that brought together 24 writers such as Michael Knight, Beth Ann Fennelly and Tom Franklin, to teach writing classes and read from their work. The conference was a big success, reaching an audience of 550 during the two-day event. Writers Elizabeth O. Dulemba and Vicky Alvear Shecter, shared their work with students in three Lee County Schools.
The Jule Collins Smith Museum brought poets together in the Auburn community once a month for a Third Thursday Poetry Series. Featured poets included Kendra Decolo, Kyes Stevens, Nick Norwood, Joanie Mackowski, Christina Stoddard and Jericho Brown. Attendees heard the work of visiting artists and participated in open-mic readings. The program included a workshop for creative writing students and members of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. In addition, the series partnered with the AU graphic design department to produce a beautiful broadside of a poem from each featured poet.

Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) engaged students from Booker T. Washington Magnet High School (BTW) and the greater Montgomery community with their Four Mondays of Poetry series. Held during National Poetry Month in April, the four poetry events featured readings by local poets Jacqueline Trimble, Susie Paul and Robert Cole at the Jubilee Community Center, an open mic event led by Foster Dickson at BTW a reading by nationally known poet Maurice Manning at AUM and a workshop by Alabama poet Tony Crunk.

A number of literary festivals received support from the Alabama State Council on the Arts in FY-2015. The Slash Pine Press held its sixth annual Writers Festival April 24th-25th, a free event featuring public readings in venues at the University of Alabama and downtown Tuscaloosa. This year the festival included a poetry hike in the UA Arboretum and a slashPOP variety show. Among the 50 poets who read at the festival were Jordan Sanderson, Jeff Whitney, Luke Johnson, Sabrina Orah Mark, Ira Sukrungruang and Adam Vines.

The 10th annual Alabama Book Festival took place April 11th in Montgomery’s downtown historic district at Old Alabama Town. The festival showcased Pat Conroy, Rick Bragg, Patti Callahan Henry, Daniel Wallace, Kim Cross and more than 50 writers from a wide range of literary genres including fiction, history, religion, poetry and children’s literature. The main event drew record crowds this year and associated workshops on fiction writing, publishing and comic book creation also proved to be highly popular.

Alabama Southern Community College was the site of the 18th annual Alabama Writers Symposium in Monroeville, April 23rd-25th. Drawing audiences from across the state, the symposium featured author readings and panel discussions facilitated by Alabama literary scholars. At the annual awards luncheon during the symposium, the 2015 Harper Lee Award for Alabama’s Distinguished Writer was presented to Hank Lazar and the Eugene Current-Garcia Award for Alabama’s Distinguished Literary Scholar was awarded to Dr. Eric Sterling.

Based at the University of Alabama, the public radio program Alabama Bound featured 50 weekly book reviews that reached a large audience of listeners, maximizing exposure for Alabama authors and Alabama-related books. Dr. Don Noble’s short reviews were aired on public radio stations across the state during National Public Radio’s Morning Edition and All Things Considered. Text versions of the reviews are posted on the Alabama Public Radio website at www.apr.org.

The Alabama State Council on the Arts granted two Literary Arts Fellowships this year, recognizing individual writers who have demonstrated artistic excellence and career achievement. Fellowship recipients for 2015 were poet Jason McCall of Tuscaloosa, an instructor at the University of Alabama who has published two poetry collections: Dear Hero and Silver, and English professor and writer Bryn Chancellor of Montevallo. In 2015, Chancellor also won the national Prairie Schooner Book Prize for her short-fiction collection When Are You Coming Home?
The Alabama State Council on the Arts (ASCA) is a government agency that relies on continued support from community members statewide. As such, we have a responsibility to share as much information as we can with those who sustain our activities. As Performing Arts Program Manager I am pleased to provide the community with a review recapping our 49th year of success in providing support to world-class performing artists, artisans and administrators. The Council’s commitment is to provide Alabama audiences with unforgettable performances by Alabama’s producing/presenting performing arts organizations and has assured our continued success in this endeavor.

Assessing the requirements of the performing arts industry and determining how to best allocate resources to serve both the individual and organization is a Performing Arts Program priority. Therefore, as part of the grant review process, the Council allots time to engage in active dialogue with producing/presenting performing arts organizations across the state. These exchanges allow the agency to maintain a tactical position to assist arts administrators as they adapt to personnel and financial challenges within their respective organizations. The Council’s intentional emphasis on these concerns has empowered the Performing Arts Program to provide grant support that will promote innovation and foster entrepreneurial activity within Alabama’s performing arts industry.

The Council’s approach to funding quality arts endeavors is also informed by the nine core funding Categories of Support. They are as follows: (1) Administrative Projects (2) Collaborative Ventures (3) Fellowships for Individual Artists (4) Internships (Novice/Journeyman), (5) Operating Support, (6) Presenting Projects, (7) Producing Projects, (8) Program Development and (9) Technical Assistance. Technical Assistance may include non-grant advisory sessions provided upon request, as well as a financial award made on the recommendation of staff, or Council.

Performing Arts Organizations, which service the citizens of Alabama, are businesses that plan, organize, staff, supervise and control individuals and activities which produce arts for consumers of the arts. Administrative Projects for such organizations are geared towards increasing both program and organizational capacity that directly relate to enhancing the quality of the artistic experience for patrons by making provisions for managerial expenses as part of a project. Mobile Opera (Mobile County) and the Princess Theatre Center for the Performing Arts (Morgan County) are two prime examples of our investment in the arts to support jobs, generate tax revenues and advance our creative-based economy as part of a strategic plan for organizational strengthening.

An interactive, interdependent Performing Arts community promotes purposeful engagement through targeted outreach. The Collaborative Ventures grant category is designed to help extend the reach of high impact organizations offering broad statewide services for the advancement of Alabama’s performing arts industry in all areas of artistry, management and production. This support is administered as a partnership agreement. The Alabama Dance Council (ADC) has distinguished itself in this category for the dance community, which is now celebrating 19 extraordinary years as an industry facilitator and supporter of dance organizations statewide. By producing its annual signature event, the Alabama Dance Festival, ADC brings dancers, companies and industry professionals together for a unique training and performance experience. Tens of thousands from across the region have benefited from participation...
in the annual dance festival activities. The featured artist in 2015 was Kyle Abraham/Abraham.In.Motion, who in addition to public performances, presented free school matinees for middle and high school students as a means to engage new and underserved audiences.

The arts are a significant part of our humanity and the individual artist is in essence fundamental to all artistry. Fellowship grants are designed to recognize excellence in artistic achievement by Alabama artists. These cash grants are awarded based on merit of work, career achievement, career potential and service to the state. The Fellowship roster for FY-2015 includes: Musician Jasper Lee (Jefferson County), Playwright David Roby (Jefferson County), Actor, Director Jonathan Fuller (Jefferson County) and Choreographer Sarah M. Barry (Tuscaloosa County). The noteworthy achievements of these exceptional Alabama artists bolster the integrity of their respective disciplines.

Presenting grants allow organizations to engage artists and companies from other counties, states or nations to promote the growth of the professional performing arts industry across Alabama. Presenters recognized in this category have a strong educational component built into the residency wherein the artists may perform for school audiences, or offer master classes for aspiring musicians, dancers or actors. Grantees in this category include the Knox Concert Series (Calhoun County) presenting the National Symphony Orchestra of Mexico and the Russian National Ballet Theatre; UAB’s Alys Stephens Center (Jefferson County) presenting Branford Marsalis in concert; and the Northeast Alabama Community College (Jackson County) presenting the Alabama Ballet of Birmingham.

Alabama based Theatre, Music and Dance production companies perform in a global arena where excellence is determined by the unique artistic quality of their product. One major category of support aids Alabama’s companies to realize a competitive edge is Operating Support. Operating Support grants provide funds for discretionary use in the day-to-day institutional activities in order to maintain a high level of artistic excellence in production. Operating Support is awarded to organizations that have a consistent track record of high artistic achievement, public service, and managerial competency. Eligible organizations are expected to also have a well-maintained educational outreach program. Statewide, there were thirteen performing arts organizations receiving Operating Support for FY-2015 totaling $620,300. Grant recipients include the Mobile Ballet (Mobile County), the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra (Madison County) and the Red Mountain Theatre (Jefferson County).

Support to Performing Arts organizations engaged in specific outreach to benefit the community is awarded in the category of Projects Grants. These grants provide funding for such activities as strategic planning, producing, commissioning new works, and touring. The ventures that include an educational component and well-planned outreach to the community are a priority for Council funding. Grantees in this category include Judson College (Perry County) mounting the stage production of Civil Rights activist Jimmy Lee, Community Ballet Association (Madison County) in support of seasonal public relations and program development activities, and Ballet and Theatre Arts Performing Company (Choctaw County) for after-school outreach offering free lessons in theatre, music and dance.

We celebrate the rich multicultural heritage which is reflected throughout the performing arts community of Alabama. This legacy of diversity continues to present new and interesting opportunities for individual artists and performing arts organizations to provide unique high-quality programming to Alabama’s culturally diverse audiences through dance, music, and theatre. The Alabama State Council on the Arts’ steadfast commitment to endorse high quality performing arts activities remains ASCA’s benchmark of success.
The Visual Arts Program of the Alabama State Council on the Arts ensures excellence in visual arts programming for diverse audiences by supporting a wide range of programs across the state. Visual art includes the disciplines of painting, sculpture, crafts, printmaking, photography, film, and design. Major art museums in Huntsville, Birmingham, Montgomery, and Mobile hold collections of significant art. They also maintain facilities and programming which brings to Alabama temporary exhibitions ranging from traditional to contemporary expression and showcasing the cultural legacy of cultures from across Alabama and around the globe. These museums provide the highest level of artistic excellence for the people of Alabama, and ASCA supported their activities with Operating Support grants totaling $425,100 in 2015. During the year, these institutions were visited by 492,953 individuals and provided art programming for 102,695 students from over 900 schools. They provided teachers’ resources and educational experiences for children as well as a range of classes for adults. Community art centers and exhibition spaces receive funding to bring art programming to all regions of Alabama. ASCA project funding assisted Arts Revive in Selma, Gadsden Museum of Art, Mobile Arts Council, Troy-Pike Cultural Arts Center, and the Wiregrass Museum of Art. Other community arts organizations like Coleman Center for the Arts, Mobile ARC, Montgomery Arts Council, Space One Eleven, Selma Art Guild and Sarah Towery Carlisle Art Colony received Council support to provide a range of art workshops and classes to youth and adults around Alabama. Art festivals bring visual arts experiences into community celebrations. Council funds assisted with events such as the Kentuck Festival of the Arts.

Festivals like Kentuck offer unique educational experiences for children and adults, as well as opportunities to meet artists and to purchase original art. They are also a significant community resource for tourism, drawing visitors from throughout the United States. A different type of festival, the Magic of Marble Festival in Sylacauga, promotes the Marble quarries in the area and the use of marble as a material for sculpture. Continuing the Italian Culture Exchange program, which began in 2008, Sylacauga offered a symposium in marble-carving with Italian sculptors teaching regional artists.

Public art is becoming increasingly popular in Alabama and the Council has been able to support a number of projects this year that bring large sculptures into public spaces. With the assistance of ASCA funding, the Huntsville SPACES Sculpture Trail, Huntsville Botanical Gardens, and the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Art at Auburn University were all able to bring sculptures into public spaces for Alabamians to enjoy. The Council annually offers Individual Artist Fellowships in the amount of $5,000 that recognize merit of work, career achievement, career potential, and service to the state. These fellowships allow artists to expand their professional careers. Seven artists chosen in 2015 were Curtis Benzle and Guadalupe Robinson in Craft; Ted Metz and Michael Vaughn Sims in Visual Arts, Dusty Bias and Gideon
Kennedy in Media/Photography, and Samantha Lawrie in Design. These individuals have attended workshops, taught, and created new artwork during the period of their fellowships.

The Georgine Clarke Alabama Artists Gallery is located at the Council offices in the RSA Tower in downtown Montgomery. The gallery provides a showcase for artists from throughout the state and presents changing exhibitions throughout the year, including award-winning student work from the Visual Arts Achievement Program each April. In the last months of 2014, we collaborated with Black Belt Treasures in Camden to mount an exhibition featuring art and craft from over twenty different Black Belt artisans, as well as portraits of a dozen of the artists taken by Robin MacDonald. From January-March, to mark the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights marches, we hosted a group exhibition featuring the work of a dozen African-American Alabama artists. In May, we mounted an exhibition showcasing the work of 16 Alabama “Southern Makers” that was a collaborative venture with the Southern Makers event held each May in Montgomery. From July through August, we showcased artwork that was created by participants in Alabama Prison Arts + Education Program classes. Our final exhibition of the fiscal year is a group exhibition featuring the work of all of the 2015 ASCA Fellowship recipients in the visual arts.
Grants for fiscal year 2015 (by county)

AUTAUGA
- Prattville Creative/Performing Arts Council, Prattville: Community Arts, Celebration of the Arts - $2,200
- Prattville Creative/Performing Arts Council, Prattville: Community Arts, Fountain City Arts Festival Coordinator - $2,200
- SUBTOTAL AUTAUGA COUNTY: - $4,400

Baldwin
- Baldwin Pops, Inc, Fairhope: Performing Arts, Outreach Concert & Activity Tour - $2,000
- Bias, Dusty, Orange Beach: Visual Arts, Media Arts Fellowship - $5,000
- John McClure Snook Youth Club of Foley, Foley: Community Arts, Youth Arts Explosion - $8,200
- Stockton Heritage Association Inc, Stockton: Community Arts, Discovering Our Past Through Folk Art - $1,700
- SUBTOTAL BALDWIN COUNTY: - $16,900

Barbour
- Barbour County High School, Clayton: Rural School Touring, 2015 ATAP/ Ron McCall - $800
- Barbour County Middle School, Clayton: Rural School Touring, 2015 ATAP Eric Essix - $1,200
- Eufaula Heritage Association, Eufaula: Community Arts, The 50th Eufaula Pilgrimage - $4,000
- SUBTOTAL BARBOUR COUNTY: - $6,000

Bibb
- West Blocton Elementary School, West Blocton: Rural School Touring, 2015 ATAP/Children’s Dance Theatre - $1,200
- Woodstock Elementary School, Woodstock: Rural School Touring, 2015 ATAP/Children’s Dance Foundation - $1,200
- SUBTOTAL BIBB COUNTY: - $2,400

Bullock
- Bullock County Tourism-Red Door Theatre, Union Springs: Community Arts, Present 3 Plays at the Red Door Theatre - $4,000
- SUBTOTAL BULLOCK COUNTY: - $4,000

Butler
- Georgiana School: Arts in Education, Presenting Eric Essix at Georgiana School - $1,800
- SUBTOTAL BUTLER COUNTY: - $1,800

Calhoun
- Knox Concert Series, Anniston: Performing Arts, National Symphony Orchestra of Mexico - $2,500
- Knox Concert Series, Anniston: Performing Arts, Russian National Ballet Theatre - $2,500
- SUBTOTAL CALHOUN COUNTY: - $5,000

Choctaw
- Ballet & Theatre Arts Performing Company, Gilbertown: Performing Arts, 2014 -- 2015 Performing Arts Season - $8,500
- SUBTOTAL CHOCTAW COUNTY: - $8,500

Clarke
- Grove Hill Arts Council, Inc, Grove Hill: Arts in Education, Clarke County’s Art Education Program - $1,800
- SUBTOTAL CLARKE COUNTY: - $1,800

Clay
- Central High School of Clay County, Lineville: Arts in Education, Clay Central Arts Program/ The Beginning - $1,800
- SUBTOTAL CLAY COUNTY: - $1,800

Coffee
- Coffee County Arts Alliance, Enterprise: Community Arts, Seven Brides for Seven Brothers - $1,000
- Coffee County Arts Alliance, Enterprise: Community Arts, Back on Broadway - $1,900
- Kinston School, Kinston: Rural School Touring, 2015 ATAP Children’s Dance Foundation - $1,200
- New Brockton Elementary School, New Brockton: Rural School Touring, 2015 Children’s Dance Foundation - $1,200
- SUBTOTAL COFFEE COUNTY: - $5,300
COLBERT
City of Sheffield ..................................... Sheffield ........ Community Arts ........ SummerStock at the Ritz ........................................ $ 4,000
City of Sheffield ..................................... Sheffield ........ Folklife ................................ Jake Landers Bluegrass Festival ........... $ 5,250
Oka Kapassa Festival, Inc. ....................... Tuscumbia .... Community Arts ........ Oka Kapassa--Sharing the Legends ........ $ 2,200
Sheffield Junior High School .................. Sheffield .... Arts in Education ........ Collaborating Artist Program ............... $ 4,200
Tennessee Valley Art Association ............. Tuscumbia .... Community Arts ........ Sacrifice by Fire: the Anne Frank Story ........ $ 4,500
Tennessee Valley Art Association ............. Tuscumbia .... Community Arts ........ SummerStock Technical Enhancement ........ $ 4,000
SUBTOTAL COLBERT COUNTY ................. $ 24,150

CULLMAN
Miller, Tina Ray .............................. Arab .......... Folklife ................. Bluegrass Music Apprenticeship ............... $ 2,000
Sampson, Betty Moon ....................... Holly Pond ..... Folklife ........... Old-time/Bluegrass Music Apprenticeship ........ $ 2,000
SUBTOTAL CULLMAN COUNTY ............... $ 4,000

DALLAS
Arts Revive CDC ............................... Selma .......... Visual Arts ............ ArtsRevive’s 13th Annual Art Exhibit ................ $ 3,400
Arts Revive CDC ............................... Selma .......... Performing Arts ...... Night Blooms: A Professional Reading ........ $ 2,500
Arts Revive CDC ............................... Selma .......... Design Arts .......... Phase I Construction for Carneal ........ $ 30,000
Arts Revive CDC ............................... Selma .......... Community Arts ...... 36th Annual Alabama Tale Tellin Festival ........ $ 4,500
Arts Revive CDC ............................... Selma .......... Visual Arts .......... The March: A Spider Martin Retrospective ........ $ 4,500
Dallas County School System ............... Selma .......... BlackBelt Initiative .... Arts in the Schools 2015 ........... $ 3,000
Ham, Thomas (Allen) ...................... Selma .......... Folklife ................ Folk Pottery Apprenticeship .............. $ 1,500
Selma Art Guild ............................... Selma .......... Visual Arts ............ See the World in 2 and 3-D .............. $ 3,300
Selma City Schools ......................... Selma .......... Performing Arts ...... Kyle Abraham In Motion Residency ........ $ 4,500
SUBTOTAL DALLAS COUNTY ................. $ 57,200

DEKALB
Gulley, Toney Russell .......................... Fort Payne .... Community Arts ........ Arts Administration Fellowship ........ $ 5,000
Mentone Area Arts Council ............... Mentone ........ Community Arts ...... Mentone Summer Music Series ........ $ 2,200
Mentone Area Arts Council ............... Mentone ........ Community Arts ...... Julyfest 2015 Art Show and Festival ........ $ 1,000
Mentone Area Preservation Association .. Mentone ........ Community Arts ...... Schematic Design/Mentone Cultural Arts ........ $ 1,000
Mentone Area Preservation Association .. Mentone ........ Community Arts ...... Schematic Design .............. $ 1,000
SUBTOTAL DEKALB COUNTY ................ $ 10,200

ELMORE
McCraney-Cottle Arts Council .......... Tallassee .... Community Arts ...... 2014-2015 MCAC performing arts series ........ $ 2,625
The Kelly Fitzpatrick Memorial Gallery ... Wetumpka ...... Visual Arts ........ Art Impact: Where Art Meets Science ........ $ 9,500
SUBTOTAL ELMORE COUNTY ................. $ 12,125

ESCAMBIA
Brewton Council of the Arts ............ Brewton ........ Community Arts ...... Cirque Zuma Zuma ........................ $ 1,800
SUBTOTAL ESCAMBIA COUNTY ................. $ 1,800

ETOWAH
Etowah County Board of Education ....... Gadsden .......... Arts in Education ...... Etowah Co. String Orchestra Program ........ $ 3,375
Gadsden Cultural Arts Foundation, Inc. .. Gadsden .......... Community Arts ...... Gadsden Center for Cultural Arts ........ $ 41,700
Gadsden Museum of Art .................... Gadsden .......... Visual Arts ............ Plein Air and children’s programming ........ $ 3,600
Russell, Jason ..................................... Gadsden .... Folklife ................ Hunting Decoy Apprenticeship ........ $ 1,000
Walnut Gallery ............................... Gadsden .... Visual Arts ............ New Media Art by Alberto Seveso $ 1,350
SUBTOTAL ETOWAH COUNTY ................. $ 51,025

FAYETTE
Berry Elementary School ................ Berry ........ Rural School Touring ... 2015 ATAP Christi Strickland Toyer $ 800
SUBTOTAL FAYETTE COUNTY ................. $ 800

GREENE
Greene County High School ............. Eutaw .......... Arts in Education ...... Collaborating Artist Program ............... $ 4,200
SUBTOTAL GREENE COUNTY ................. $ 4,200
## ANNUAL REPORT 2015

### HALE
- Greensboro Opera House .................................. Greensboro .................................. Design Arts ................................ Phase 1 renovation of ground floor ........................................ $ 25,000
- Hale County Board of Education ............................ Greensboro .................................. Black Belt Initiative ................................. Arts in Schools 2015 ........................................ $ 5,000
- SUBTOTAL HALE COUNTY .......................................................... $ 30,000

### HENRY
- Abbeville Elementary School .............................. Abbeville ................................. Rural School Touring .......................... 2015 ATAP Nathifa Dance Company ........................................ $ 1,200
- SUBTOTAL HENRY COUNTY .......................................................... $ 1,200

### HOUSTON
- Wiregrass Blues Society .................................. Dothan ........................................ Folklife ................................................. 2015 Wiregrass Blues Festival ........................................ $ 3,700
- The Cultural Arts Center .................................. Dothan ........................................ Community Arts .................................. Ageless Art .......................................................... $ 3,000
- The Cultural Arts Center .................................. Dothan ........................................ Community Arts .................................. 4 to 84: Theatre All Around ........................................ $ 1,650
- The Cultural Arts Center .................................. Dothan ........................................ Arts in Education .................................. Smart Through Art ................................................ $ 3,375
- Patti Rutland Jazz, Inc ........................................ Dothan ........................................ Arts in Education .................................. PRJ Outreach 2014 - 2015 ........................................ $ 2,200
- Southeast Alabama Community Players.............. Dothan ........................................ Performing Arts .................................. Les Miserables Production & Outreach ........................................ $ 1,600
- Southeast Alabama Dance Company .................. Dothan ........................................ Performing Arts .................................. Spring Show Introducing Frozen & More ........................................ $ 4,500
- Southeast Alabama Dance Company .................. Dothan ........................................ Arts in Education .................................. D.A.N.C.E. 2015 School Outreach ........................................ $ 1,600
- Wiregrass Museum of Art, Inc .......................... Dothan ........................................ Visual Arts ................................................. HENSE Exhibition and Public Art ........................................ $ 2,800
- Wiregrass Museum of Art, Inc .......................... Dothan ........................................ Visual Arts ................................................. Multi-purpose inventory project ........................................ $ 4,800
- Wiregrass Museum of Art, Inc .......................... Dothan ........................................ Visual Arts ................................................. Drawn to Abstraction Exhibition ........................................ $ 2,900
- Wiregrass Museum of Art, Inc .......................... Dothan ........................................ Visual Arts ................................................. Flat Granny & Me ................................................ $ 1,000
- SUBTOTAL HOUSTON COUNTY .......................................................... $ 33,125

### JACKSON
- Northeast Alabama Community College ... Rainsville .................................. Performing Arts .................................. Ballet Performs in Rural North Alabama ........................................ $ 4,000
- SUBTOTAL JACKSON COUNTY .......................................................... $ 4,000

### JEFFERSON
- Alabama Asian Cultures Foundation ............... Birmingham .......................... Performing Arts .................................. 1-The Mist; 2-South of Gold Mountain ........................................ $ 8,500
- Alabama Dance Council, Inc .......................... Birmingham .......................... Performing Arts .................................. Kyle Abraham In Motion Residency ........................................ $ 3,200
- Alabama Educational Theatre Association .... Birmingham .......................... Performing Arts .................................. 2015 Alabama Thespians Festival ........................................ $ 2,600
- Alabama Moving Image Association .............. Birmingham .......................... Visual Arts ................................................. Scrambled Jam Music Video Competition ........................................ $ 3,000
- Alabama School of Fine Arts Foundation .... Birmingham .......................... Performing Arts .................................. Dance in Public Places ................................................ $ 4,800
- Alabama Symphonic Association, Inc ............. Birmingham .......................... Performing Arts .................................. Operating Support ................................................ $ 183,800
- AROVA Contemporary Ballet ....................... Vestavia ......................................... Performing Arts .................................. “REVIVE” .......................................................... $ 1,000
- Better Basics, Inc ................................................ Birmingham .......................... Arts in Education .................................. Mandela’s South Africa through Theatre ........................................ $ 1,800
- Bib & Tucker Sew-Op ........................................ Birmingham .......................... Visual Arts ................................................. The March Quilts ................................................ $ 1,000
- Birmingham Art Music Alliance ...................... Birmingham .......................... Performing Arts .................................. Beyond Twelve Tour ................................................ $ 1,600
- Birmingham Chamber Music Society .............. Mountain Brook ....................... Performing Arts .................................. Brentano String Quartet concert & outreach ........................................ $ 2,200
- Birmingham Chamber Music Society .............. Mountain Brook ....................... Performing Arts .................................. Mnozil Brass-Concert & outreach class ........................................ $ 4,800
- Birmingham Chamber Music Society .............. Mountain Brook ....................... Performing Arts .................................. Cynthia Raim, Marcy Rosen & Daniel Phillips ........................................ $ 4,000
- Birmingham Children’s Theatre .................... Birmingham .......................... Performing Arts .................................. Operating Support ................................................ $ 28,900
- Birmingham Landmarks, Inc ......................... Birmingham .......................... Design Arts ................................................. Lyric Theatre Restoration Project ........................................ $ 12,500
- Birmingham Museum of Art (BMA) ......... Birmingham .............................. Visual Arts ................................................. Operating Support ................................................ $ 162,000
- Birmingham Museum of Art (BMA) ......... Birmingham .............................. Literary Arts ................................................. Vijay Seshadri At BMA Speaks ........................................ $ 1,000
- Birmingham Music Club ................................. Birmingham .......................... Performing Arts .................................. Maestro Goes to Motown II ........................................ $ 2,500
- Birmingham Public Library Foundation .... Birmingham .............................. Literary Arts ................................................. Bards & Brews ................................................ $ 1,350
- Birmingham Public Library Foundation .... Birmingham .............................. Literary Arts ................................................. BPL Teen Poetry Initiative ........................................ $ 3,700
- Children’s Dance Foundation ......................... Birmingham .......................... Community Arts .................................. Extensive dance education programs ........................................ $ 19,500
- Foundation Arts/Cultural Connections ........ Birmingham .......................... Community Arts .................................. MCAC’s Imagination Festival (IF) ........................................ $ 3,300
- Jonathan Fuller ............................................... Birmingham .......................... Performing Arts .................................. Theatre Fellowship ................................................ $ 5,000
- Lee, Jasper ...................................................... Birmingham .......................... Performing Arts .................................. Music Fellowship ................................................ $ 5,000
- Leslie Wright Arts Center, Samford Univ .... Birmingham .......................... Performing Arts .................................. Sybarite5 in Residence ........................................ $ 2,400
- Leslie Wright Arts Center, Samford Univ .... Birmingham .......................... Performing Arts .................................. Eisenhower Dance in Residence ........................................ $ 3,200
- Magic City Smooth Jazz ................................. Birmingham .......................... Performing Arts .................................. Jazz in the Park ................................................ $ 9,000
- Main Street Alabama ................................. Birmingham .......................... Community Arts .................................. Downtown Design Guidelines ........................................ $ 4,500
- Metropolitan/Virginia Samford Theatre .... Birmingham .......................... Community Arts .................................. Operating Support ................................................ $ 19,000

(continued)
JEFFERSON

Nathifa Dance Company and Outreach ...........Irnondale......Performing Arts ..........Dance Africa Birmingham 2015 .................. $ ........4,600
Opera Birmingham ........................................Birmingham ......Performing Arts .......Operating Support.......................... $ ........18,800
Red Mountain Theatre Company ..................Birmingham ......Performing Arts .......Operating Support.......................... $ ........47,900
Regional Cultural Alliance Greater B’ham ...Birmingham ......Visual Arts ...................The Lonnie Holley Story .................. $ ........4,800
Roby, David .................................................Birmingham ......Performing Arts .......Theatre Fellowship .................. $ ........5,000
Sanspointe Dance Company .........................Birmingham ......Performing Arts .......Trip the Light - A Dance Concert .................. $ ........2,500
Smitri Bharadwaj Krishnan .........................Hoover ......Performing Arts ...........Dance Fellowship .................. $ ........5,000
Southern Danceworks ..........................Birmingham ......Performing Arts .......Dance for Parkinson’s Education Program .................. $ ........4,500
Space One Eleven (SOE) ..................Birmingham ......Visual Arts ...................Service to Alabama Artists .................. $ ........4,800
Space One Eleven (SOE) ..................Birmingham ......Visual Arts ...................Art education afterschool/summer classes .. $ ........2,400
State of Alabama Ballet, Inc .....................Birmingham ......Performing Arts .......Operating Support .................. $ ........47,000
Taylor, Barry .................................................Birmingham ......Folklife ...........Gospel Quartet Apprenticeship .................. $ ........2,000
The Seasoned Performers ..................Birmingham ......Performing Arts .......Senior Theatre workshops and performance .................. $ ........6,000
Trotman, Herb ..............................................Birmingham ......Special Projects ...........Alabama Folk Heritage Award .................. $ ........5,000
UAB’s Alys Stephens Center ..................Birmingham ......Performing Arts .......Local 2015 .................. $ ........4,800
UAB’s Alys Stephens Center ..................Birmingham ......Performing Arts .......The Jazz Essentials - Branford Marsalis .................. $ ........4,800
Vestavia Hills High School .....................Vestavia Hills ......Arts in Education .......Summer Dance Series .................. $ ........1,800
Vulcan Park and Museum .....................Birmingham ......Arts in Education ...........Anything Is Possible .................. $ ........3,300
Vulcan Park and Museum .....................Birmingham ......Arts in Education .......Class on the Grass .................. $ ........4,388
Vulcan Park and Museum .....................Birmingham ......Folklife ...........Bobby Horton & Birmingham Sunlights .................. $ ........1,400
Your Town Alabama, Inc ..................Birmingham ......Community Arts ..........2015 Your Town AL Design Workshop .................. $ ........3,800
SUBTOTAL JEFFERSON COUNTY ............ $ ........694,238

LAURELDALE

Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area ...... Florence ......Folklife ...................Record oral histories of Music Makers .................. $ ........3,000
Muse, Robert .............................................Florence ......Folklife ...........Banjo Apprenticeship .................. $ ........2,000
Robertson, Wanda ....................................Florence ......Folklife ...........Quilting Apprenticeship .................. $ ........2,000
Shoals Symphony Orchestra ..................Florence ......Performing Arts .......Honor Orchestra for High School players .................. $ ........1,600
Shoals Symphony Orchestra ..................Florence ......Performing Arts .......Music of the Movies School Concert .................. $ ........1,500
SUBTOTAL LAURELDALE COUNTY ............ $ ........10,100

LAWRENCE

Community Info & Education Radio, Inc....Moulton .......Community Arts ..........Downtown Live! 2015 .................. $ ........1,000
East Lawrence Elementary School ..........Trinity ......Rural School Touring ....2015 ATAP/Children’s Dance Foundation .................. $ ........1,200
SUBTOTAL LAWRENCE COUNTY ............ $ ........2,200

LEE

Alabama Prison Arts + Ed Project ..........Auburn Univ ......Community Arts ..........Administrative Support for AL. Prison Arts $ ........4,500
Alabama Prison Arts + Ed Project ..........Auburn Univ ......Community Arts ..........Building a Path for Creative Expression .................. $ ........2,625
Auburn Univ CMD Ctr/Arts & Humanities .Auburn ......Literary Arts ..........Auburn Writers Conference 2014 .................. $ ........4,716
City of Auburn ...........................................Auburn ......Arts in Education .......Adventures in Art 2015 .................. $ ........3,500
Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art .Auburn ......Visual Arts ..........Awards - Ceramics and Artists .................. $ ........6,000
Lawrie, Samantha .....................................Auburn ......Visual Arts ..........Design Arts Fellowship .................. $ ........5,000
Lee County Historical Society ............Loachapoka ......Folklife ...........Lee County Gathering 2015 .................. $ ........2,000
Stephens, Sylvia G. .....................................Opelika ......Folklife ...........Quilting Apprenticeship .................. $ ........2,000
SUBTOTAL LEE COUNTY ............ $ ........44,141

LOWNDES

Hayneville Middle School ......................Hayneville ......Rural School Touring ....2015 ATAP Eric Essix .................. $ ........1,200
Sims, Michael Vaughn ..................Tyler ......Visual Arts ..........Visual Arts Fellowship .................. $ ........5,000
SUBTOTAL LOWNDES COUNTY ............ $ ........6,200

MACON

Macon County Board of Education ..........Tuskegee ......Black Belt Initiative .......Arts in Schools 2015 .................. $ ........4,667
Tuskegee Institute Middle School ..........Tuskegee Institute .......Arts in Education .......Collaborating Artist Program .................. $ ........4,200
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MACON

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MARENGO

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MARION

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MARSHALL

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### MOBILE

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### MONROE

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### MONTGOMERY

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### MORGAN

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ANNUAL REPORT 2015

MORGAN
Leon Sheffield Magnet Elementary ........ Decatur ........ Arts in Education........ “Fantasy; What Makes It Special?!” ........ $ ..... 2,200
Princess Theatre for the Performing Arts .... Decatur ........ Performing Arts .......... Administrative Support To Sustain PTFPA $ .... 4,500
Princess Theatre for the Performing Arts .... Decatur ........ Performing Arts .......... Princess Theatre Performing Arts Series $ .... 9,000
Speake Elementary School .................. Danville ........ Rural School Touring .... 2015 ATAP/Children’s Dance Foundation $ .... 1,200
SUBTOTAL MORGAN COUNTY ................................................................. $ .... 26,900

PERRY
Robert C Hatch High School ............... Uniontown ...... Rural School Touring .... 2015 ATAP Nathifa Dance Company $ .... 1,200
Albert Turner Elementary School .......... Marion ...... Arts in Education ........ Collaborating Artist Program - Dance $ .... 5,700
Albert Turner Elementary School .......... Marion ...... Rural School Touring .... 2015 ATAP Christi Toyer $ .... 800
Francis Marion High School ............... Marion ...... Arts in Education ........ Collaborating Artist Program $ .... 5,700
Francis Marion High School ............... Marion ...... Rural School Touring .... 2015 ATAP Nathifa Dance Company $ .... 1,200
Francis Marion High School ............... Marion ...... Arts in Education ........ Collaborating Artist Program $ .... 5,700
Judson College ................................ Marion ...... Performing Arts .......... Produce Jimmy Lee $ .... 2,600
Perry County Board of Education ........... Marion ...... BlackBelt Initiative ...... Arts in Schools 2015 $ .... 5,000
Uniontown Elementary ...................... Uniontown ...... Rural School Touring .... 2015 ATAP Christi Toyer $ .... 800
SUBTOTAL PERRY COUNTY ................................................................. $ .... 23,000

PICKENS
Pickens County Board of Education ......... Carrollton ...... BlackBelt Initiative ...... Arts in Schools 2014 $ .... 2,500
SUBTOTAL PICKENS COUNTY ................................................................. $ .... 2,500

PIKE
Brundidge Historical Society .............. Brundidge .... Folklife .................. Chili Country Christmas Storytelling $ .... 1,000
Brundidge Historical Society .............. Brundidge .... Folklife .................. Pike Piddlers Storytelling Festival $ .... 2,200
Pioneer Museum of Alabama ............. Troy ........ Community Arts .......... Pioneer Days $ .... 4,500
Troy Arts Council ............................. Troy ........ Community Arts .......... Troy Performing Arts Seasons 2014-2015 $ .... 8,790
Troy Univ. Dept. of Theatre and Dance .... Troy ........ Performing Arts .......... Dance residency, outreach/performance... $ .... 1,900
Troy-Pike Cultural Arts Center, Inc. ....... Troy ........ Visual Arts ............. Celebrating Contemporary Art in Alabama $ .... 4,200
Troy-Pike Cultural Arts Center, Inc. ....... Troy ........ Arts in Education ...... ArtBridges - In Schools $ .... 2,625
Troy-Pike Cultural Arts Center, Inc. ....... Troy ........ Arts in Education ...... ArtBridges - Teacher Development $ .... 3,000
SUBTOTAL PIKE COUNTY ................................................................. $ .... 28,215

RANDOLPH
Roanoke Rotary Charities .................... Roanoke ...... Design Arts ............... Restoration of Old Theatre in Roanoke AL $ .... 12,500
Wedowee Elementary School .............. Wedowee ...... Rural School Touring .... 2015 ATAP Christi Toyer $ .... 800
SUBTOTAL RANDOLPH COUNTY ............................................................. $ .... 13,300

SHELBY
Chancellor, Bryn ............................. Montevallo ...... Literary Arts .......... Literary Arts Fellowship $ .... 5,000
Metz, Ted .................................... Montevallo ...... Visual Arts ............. Visual Arts Fellowship $ .... 5,000
Shelby County Arts Council ............... Columbiana ...... Community Arts .......... Community Arts Performance $ .... 4,500
Shelby County Arts Council ............... Columbiana ...... Arts in Education ...... Writing Our Stories $ .... 3,300
SUBTOTAL SHELBY COUNTY ................................................................. $ .... 17,800

SUMTER
Coleman Center for the Arts .............. York ........ Visual Arts ............. Education Programs $ .... 4,500
Coleman Center for the Arts .............. York ........ Folklife .................. Cable Television Series $ .... 3,000
Coleman Center for the Arts .............. York ........ Visual Arts ............. Artist Projects $ .... 9,000
Sumter County Fine Arts Council ......... Livingston .... BlackBelt Initiative ...... Arts in Schools 2015 $ .... 2,969
Sumter County Fine Arts Council ......... Livingston .... Community Arts .......... Bham Children’s Theatre: Wizard of Oz $ .... 850
The University of West Alabama ......... Livingston .... Literary Arts ............. Belles’ Letters 2: AL Women Writers $ .... 2,175
University of West Alabama .............. Livingston .... Folklife .................. The Suncaronochee Folklife Festival $ .... 1,800
SUBTOTAL SUMTER COUNTY ............................................................. $ .... 24,294

TALLADEGA
Antique Talladega/Ritz Theatre ............. Talladega ...... Performing Arts .......... Technical Assistance - PAE Conference $ .... 1,000
Sylacauga Area Council on the Arts, Inc. Sylacauga ...... Visual Arts ............. “Marble Symposium/Cultural Exchange” $ .... 4,500
Sylacauga High School ..................... Sylacauga ...... Arts in Education ...... Performance by Eric Essix $ .... 1,800
SUBTOTAL TALLADEGA COUNTY ............................................................ $ .... 7,300
## TALLAPOOSA COUNTY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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## TUSCALOOSA COUNTY

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<td>Barry, Sarah M</td>
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<td>Tuscaloosa City Schools, Fine Arts Dept</td>
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## WALKER COUNTY

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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
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## WASHINGTON COUNTY

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<td>Fruitdale High School</td>
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## WILCOX COUNTY

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<td>Folklife</td>
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<td>Pettway, Mary Ann</td>
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<td>Folklife</td>
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### STATEWIDE IMPACT GRANTS

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
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<th>Amount ($)</th>
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<td>Alabama Writers’ Forum, Inc</td>
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<td>Black Belt Community Foundation*</td>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>Community Arts</td>
<td>Black Belt Arts Initiative</td>
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<td>DesignAlabama, Inc</td>
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*The Black Belt Community Foundation funds organizations in 12 of Alabama’s Black Belt Counties including: Bullock, Choctaw, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Perry, Pickens, Sumter, and Wilcox.
# Financial Report

## REVENUES

Education Trust Fund Appropriation ................................................. $3,984,496

## FEDERAL FUNDS

National Endowment for the Arts........................................... $ .741,700
NEA Partnership Grant .................................................. $ .548,300
Arts in Education................................................. $ .52,200
Poetry Out Loud.................................................. $ .17,500
Arts in Underserved Communities .. $ .103,700
Folk Arts Infrastructure .................. $ .20,000

**TOTAL**................................................................................. $4,726,196

## EXPENDITURES

### ARTS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM

Organizational Grants................................................. $ 277,042
Black Belt Arts Initiative/Schools ........................................ $ 30,636
Alabama Touring Artist Program ........................................ $ 19,200
Technical Assistance/Services to the field ........................................ $ 110,479

### COMMUNITY ARTS PROGRAM

Organizational Grants................................................. $ 350,805
Arts Administration Fellowship ........................................ $ 5,000
Black Belt Arts Initiative/Communities ........................................ $ 143,690
Art & Cultural Facilities ........................................ $ 105,000
Technical Assistance/Services to the Field ........................................ $ 52,377

### FOLKLIFE PROGRAM

Organizational Grants................................................. $ 92,350
Apprenticeships ........................................ $ 25,000
Technical Assistance/Services to the field/
Alabama Center for Traditional Culture ........................................ $ 309,262

### LITERATURE PROGRAM

Organizational Grants................................................. $ 103,750
Fellowships to Individual Artists ........................................ $ 10,000

### PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM

Organizational Grants................................................. $ 960,623
Fellowships to Individual Artists ........................................ $ 20,000
Technical Assistance/Services to the field ........................................ $ 63,984

### VISUAL ARTS PROGRAM

Organizational Grants................................................. $ 546,150
Fellowships to Individual Artists ........................................ $ 35,000
Technical Assistance/Services to the field ........................................ $ 104,851

### GRANTS MANAGEMENT/INFORMATION SYSTEMS/GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.................. $ 1,010,997

*SPECIAL LINE ITEM APPROPRIATIONS

Alabama Center for the Arts ........................................ $ 350,000

**TOTAL**................................................................................. $ 4,726,196
Photos Captions & Credits

Cover: (Clockwise from top left) Workmen in front of molded arches during restoration of the Historic Alabama and Lyric Theatres in Birmingham; Hillary Bevels, performs during Boon Days, an annual festival in Ft. Payne. Photo: Steve Grauberger; A father and son enjoy hands-on activities at the Huntsville Museum of Art; A production of King Lear by the The Alabama Shakespeare Festival. Photo: Stephen Poff.

Page 3: (Top) Albert B. Head. Photo by Paul Pobertson.


Page 5: (Clockwise from bottom left) Guests visit with honorees during the 2015 Arts Awards (left to right) State Representative Joe Faust, (Baldwin County), Winston Groom, Sharon Faust and Al Head. Photo: Andy Meadows; (Left to right) Joel Davis IV, Al Head, Senator Bill Hightower (Mobile), Senator Joba Waggoner (Birmingham), and Steve Flowers (Troy). Photo: Andy Meadows; Duo-R2 perform for arts awards guests. Photo: Andy Meadows.

Page 6: (Clockwise from top left) Vaughn Morriissette (Council Chair) Theresa Harper Bruno (Jonnie Dee Riley Little honoree) and Lisa Weil (former Council member). Photo: Andy Meadows; (Left to right) Lynn Hudson, Jim Hudson (Council Legacy honoree), Rick Hall (Governor’s Arts honoree) and Linda Hall. Photo: Andy Meadows; Alabama State Treasurer Young Booser shares a moment with Winston Groom (Governor’s Arts honoree). Photo: Andy Meadows; (Left to right) Senator Bill Hightower (Mobile), Winston Groom and Julie Friedman; (Left to right) Wiley White, Mack Gibson (Governor’s Arts honoree), Mary Gibson, Elaine Johnson, Andrew Gibson and Melanie Geary. Photo: Andy Meadows; (Left to right) Lynn Hudson, Joba Waggoner and Al Head. Photo: Andy Meadows; (Left to right) Неейн MacCorvey and Dr. Everett McCorvey (Alabama Distinguished Artist honoree). Photo: Andy Meadows.

Page 8: (Clockwise from top left) Black Belt Treasures Summer Camp Workshop. Photo: Courtesy of Black Belt Treasures; Tuscaloosa student Nicole Louw wins State Poetry Out Loud Competition and travels to Washington, DC to compete nationally. Photo: Julian Green; Art Bridges Program at Johnson Center for the Arts, Troy. Photo: Walter Black.

Page 10: (Clockwise from top left) Kids Art Camp, O’Connor Art Studios, Tuscaloosa; Linden High School Senior Project. Photo: Courtesy of Liden High School; Erin Shokey shares ideas as a junior member of the Arts Education Leadership Team. Photo: Barbara Reed; Junior members of the Arts Education Leadership Team, consist of high school students working with Senior team members to incorporate the arts in education statewide. Photo: Barbara Reed.

Page 12: (Clockwise from top left) Patrons enjoying the Imagination Festival in Birmingham; Photo: Birmingham Imagination Festival. Alabama School of Fine Arts Jazz Ensemble performs for a downtown festival; Artists at work as festival-goers watch. Photo: Birmingham Imagination Festival; BYC Stage and Sanspointe Dance Company perform. Photo: Birmingham Imagination Festival.

Page 14: (Clockwise from top left) Imagine That Parades with Dueling Dragons. Photo: Imagination Festival; Artist Athlone Clark at his booth; Photo: Imagination Festival; Gabriella Fuqua plays Bloody Mary in the Tennessee Valley Art Association’s SummerStock performance of South Pacific. Photo: Betty Dale Walker.

Page 16: (Clockwise from top left) Face jug by Allen Hamm; (left to right) Jimmy D. Warren jamming with Herb Trotman, Alabama Folklife Heritage Award recipient; NEA’s National Heritage Fellowship recipient, Lucy Mingo’s House Top, Log Cabin variation quilt, circa 1985; NEA’s National Heritage Fellowship recipient, Loretta Pettway’s Medalion quilt, circa 1960; NEA’s National Heritage Fellowship recipient, Mary Lee Bendolph’s Strips and Strips quilt, circa 2003.

Page 18: (Clockwise from top left) Hillary Bevels, performs during Boon Days, an annual festival in Ft. Payne. Photo: Steve Grauberger; Sudha Raghuram and her Bharatanatyam students; Keithen Ruff performing during the Freedom Creek Blues Festival in Aliceville. Photo: Joey Brackner.

Page 20: (Clockwise from top left) University of Alabama professor Dr. Trudier Harris reads the work of Zora Neale Hurston at the Writers Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Photo: University of Alabama staff photographer; Teaching writer Tony Crunk tutors one of his Writing Our Stories students at Montevallo Middle School. Photo: Terry Bruno-fotowereks; Jeanie Thompson and Forum Board President Jacqueline Trimbble congratulate 2015 Harper Lee Award recipient Hank Lazer; Word Up! participant; Bards and Brews event.

Page 22: (Clockwise from top left) Hall of Fame Inductees Sonia Sanchez and Rick Bragg prior to the induction ceremony in Tuscaloosa. Photo: University of Alabama staff photographer; Alabama Writers’ Forum Executive Director Jeanie Thompson presents Montevallo High School student Samuel Reece with a Fiction Judge’s Special Recognition Award at the 2015 Alabama High School Literary Arts Awards. Photo: Terry Bruno-fotowereks; Jeanie Thompson works with a Writing Our Stories student at Montevallo Middle School. Photo: Terry Bruno-fotowereks; Newly published writer signs a book during the Writing Our Stories event at Mt. Meigs. Photo: Barbara Reed.

Page 24: (Clockwise from top) A production of Mary Poppins by Red Mountain Theatre. Photo: Stuart Edmonds; Lucia di Lammermoor, a production of the Birmingham Opera, with Susanna Phillips as Lucia. Photo: Courtesy of Mary Chambliss, Brantley Nelson & Jeff Trombrello; A performance during the Alabama Dance Festival in Birmingham. Photo: Clark Scott.

Page 26: (Clockwise from top) The witch from Red Mountain Theatre’s production of The Big Fish. Photo: Drew Francis; Dancers from the Southeast Alabama Dance Company. Photo: Courtesy of SEADAC; Carlos Izcaray with Alabama Symphony Orchestra. Photo: Courtesy of Alabama Symphony.

Page 28: (Clockwise from top left) Students make pottery at Montgomery Arts Council’s annual Doing Our Own Thing Workshop. Photo: Elliott Knight; Sloss Furnaces Artist-in-Residence, Marshall Christie, leads an iron pour at the Kentuck Arts Festival. Photo: Elliott Knight; Montgomery artist Barbara Davis leads an oil painting workshop at the Montgomery Arts Council. Photo: Elliott Knight; Visitors enjoy the Huntsville Museum of Art. Photo: Courtesy of the Huntsville Museum of Art.

Page 30: (Clockwise from top) The Huntsville Museum of Art is located in Big Spring Park in downtown Huntsville; Guests view artwork by Bruce Phillips during the A4 exhibition at the Georigne Clarke Alabama Artists Gallery. Photo: Barbara Reed; Interweave, a porcelain vessel by Fellowship recipient Curtis Benzle on display at the Alabama State Council on the Arts. Contributed photo; Puzzle, a wheel-thrown stoneware piece made by fellowship recipient Guadalupe Robinson; Allen Hamm demonstrates wheel-throwing at the Kentuck Festival of the Arts in Northport. Photo by Elliott Knight.