

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE ARTS COUNCIL AWARDS \$312,800 IN STIMULUS GRANTS FOR JOB PRESERVATION IN ALABAMA

Montgomery, Ala. -- As a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the Alabama State Council on the Arts (ASCA) awarded \$312,800 in Stimulus Grants for job preservation at its meeting in Alexander City on September 11, 2009. To be eligible for the program, applicants needed to comply with very specific guideline requirements. ARRA provided \$50 million to be distributed in direct grants to fund arts projects and activities, which preserve jobs in the nonprofit arts sector, threatened by declines in philanthropic and other support during the current economic downturn. Forty percent of such funds are being distributed through state arts agencies and regional arts organizations. As partners of the NEA, the state arts agencies (SAAs) and regional arts organizations (RAOs) are playing an important role in advancing the goals of this program. The NEA has awarded funds to the SAAs and RAOs specifically for projects that focus on the preservation of jobs in the arts.

These ARRA or stimulus grants are in response to applications submitted under a July 10, 2009 deadline and represent the crucial need for job preservation in arts organizations in Alabama. The Council received 53 applications requesting over \$1.5 million dollars. The review process was very competitive and a real challenge for the Council.

“The Council is very pleased with these special and needed monies from the NEA. These funds will be directly reinvested in Alabama’s arts organizations,” said Ralph Frohsin, Chair of the Council. Frohsin further added, ***“One of the Council’s main priorities has always been to help sustain Alabama’s arts and cultural organizations. These stimulus grants will be used where they are needed most — for job preservation in the arts at this critical point in time.”***

The Alabama State Council on the Arts awarded twelve stimulus grants to arts organizations in Alabama as follows:

County	Grantee	City	Project Description	Discipline	Grant
Houston	Southeast Alabama Dance Company	Dothan	Artistic Coordinator	Dance	\$9,500
Jefferson	Alabama Ballet	Birmingham	Two positions	Dance	\$37,000
	Alabama Moving Image Association	Birmingham	Project Coordinator	Media/Photo	\$8,100
	Birmingham Museum of Art	Birmingham	Four positions	Visual Arts	\$31,800
	Opera Birmingham	Birmingham	Two full-time positions & one part-time	Music	\$31,400
	Space One Eleven	Birmingham	CEO & Co-Founding Director	Visual Arts	\$29,600
	Studio By the Tracks	Birmingham	Artistic Coordinator	Visual Arts	\$17,800
Madison	Huntsville Museum of Art	Huntsville	Communication Manager & Curator	Visual Arts	\$37,000
	Huntsville Symphony Orchestra	Huntsville	Director of Education	Music	\$21,800
Montgomery	Alabama Institute for Education in the Arts	Montgomery	Program Manager	Multi-discipline	\$14,800
	Alabama Shakespeare Festival	Montgomery	Support for Two Positions	Theatre	\$37,000
Morgan	Princess Theatre	Decatur	Preservation of two positions	Theatre	\$37,000
					\$312,800

The Alabama State Council on the Arts is the official state arts agency of Alabama. The staff of the Council, directed by Al Head, administers the grants programs and provides technical assistance in arts planning and programming. The 15-member Council is chaired by Ralph Frohsin of Alexander City. Board members are appointed for 6-year terms by the Governor to help promote the arts statewide. A primary responsibility of the Council is to make decisions on grants awarded to support art programs and arts education throughout the state. Board members are selected from all regions of the state in order to strive for a geographic spread representing all areas of the state. The Council receives its support through an annual appropriation from the Alabama Legislature and funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

The National Endowment for the arts (NEA) awarded nine grants directly to arts organizations in Alabama including:

County	Grantee	City	Project Description	Discipline	Grant
Jefferson	Alabama Dance Council, Inc.	Birmingham	Job Preservation - ARRA	Dance	\$25,000
	Alabama Folklife Association, Inc.	Birmingham	Job Preservation - ARRA	Folk Arts	\$50,000
	Alabama Symphonic Assoc., Inc.	Birmingham	Job Preservation - ARRA	Music	\$50,000
	Children's Dance Foundation	Birmingham	Job Preservation - ARRA	Dance	\$25,000
Lee	Auburn University – Main Campus	Auburn	Job Preservation - ARRA	Visual Arts	\$25,000
Greene	Coleman Center for the Arts	York	Job Preservation - ARRA	Visual Arts	\$50,000
Mobile	Mobile Symphony	Mobile	Job Preservation - ARRA	Music	\$25,000
	South Mobile Co Education Center	Bayou La Batre	Job Preservation - ARRA	Visual Arts	\$50,000
Montgomery	Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts	Montgomery	Job Preservation - ARRA	Museums	\$50,000
					\$350,000

The NEA is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. More information on the NEA can be found at the agency’s website, <http://www.nea.gov>; more information on the NEA Recovery program can be found at www.arts.gov/recovery.

The Southern Arts Federation, an eight-state regional organization, of which Alabama is a member, will award two grants in Alabama under the ARRA Program:

County	Grantee	City	Project Description	Discipline	Grant
Jefferson	Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame	Birmingham	Support for two Positions	Music	\$40,200
Wilcox	Black Belt Treasures	Camden	Preservation of two positions	Visual Arts	\$14,550
					\$54,750

For more information about a particular grant, contact Barbara Reed, Public Information Officer at 334-242-4076, ext. 223.

As part of an ongoing effort by the State of Alabama to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to report the misuse of Stimulus funds, the Recovery Office is asking that all abuse and fraud be reported at: www.stimulus.alabama.gov

A web form is available that allows individuals to report any possible misuse of Stimulus funds. That form can also be found at: <http://stimulus.alabama.gov/fraud.aspx>