Established by a group of citizens dedicated to the arts, the Arts and Humanities Council of Tuscaloosa County, Inc. is the Arts Division of the Tuscaloosa County Park and Recreation Authority. The purpose of the organization is to promote and encourage the arts and humanities in Tuscaloosa County. To achieve this objective, the Arts and Humanities Council of Tuscaloosa County, Inc. shall:

- Provide a means of cooperation, exchange of information and support among its 50 member organizations
- Stimulate and develop interest in and participation in the arts and humanities among the citizens of Tuscaloosa County

Staff
Sandra Wolfe, Executive Director
David Allgood, Bama Theatre Manager
Kevin Ledgewood, Publicist
Meghan Truhett, Marketing Coordinator, CAC Rentals and Bama Theatre Assistant Manager
Paula Demonbreun, CAC Supervisor

Board Members
Tony Avery
Dianne Bragg
D. Jay Cervino
Pamela DeWitt
Melanie Edwards
Andrew Grace
Anne Guthrie
Mary Kerr
David Jones
Beverly May
Brendan Moore
Marcelyn Morrow
David Nelson
Ruth O’Connor
Rebecca A. Young

History and Purpose

2014 -15

21st Druid Arts Awards
The Druid Arts Awards are presented by The Arts Council in a ceremony held every other year at the Bama Theatre. Volunteers, educators and artists in each discipline are honored in addition to corporate sponsors, the Patron of the Arts and the Home Grown award. Special awards are also presented to those individuals or groups who contribute to the arts community but are outside of the aforementioned categories. The purpose of the ceremony is to publicly recognize the work of the dedicated individuals in each of these areas and their contributions to Tuscaloosa County. Left, Druid Arts Awards photo by Mary Meares

Patron of the Arts Award - Judi Rabel
Corporate Sponsor of the Year - Jamison Money Farmer
Special Award - Ruth Jayth O’Connor
Special Award - Ron Montgomery
Home Grown Artist - Chuck Tilley
Special Lifetime Achievement - Sara Turner
Library Artist - Jennifer Horne
Music Volunteer - Dr. Elizabeth Avessa
Music Educator - Paul Houghaling

Fundraising
June 1, 2014 – April 21, 2015
Cultural Arts Center (ongoing):
Mailings and receptions with tours - Greensboro Room, Harrison Galleries, CAC
Annual Membership Contributions:
2014 membership letters moved to an annual cycle

August 29, 2015
Benefit event to raise funds for The Arts Council at the Bama Theatre and the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center

City Funding 2014 - 2015
$50,000 awarded to The Arts Council from The City of Tuscaloosa was used to pay for:
- Part Time Evening and Weekend Supervisor for CAC Events
- Full Time Marketing Coordinator/ Bama Theatre Assistant Manager/ Cultural Arts Center Rentals position with benefits.
- Full Time position responsible for:
  Cultural Arts Center rentals
  Ongoing CAC rental marketing campaigns
  Coordinating with renters and CAC Supervisor
  CAC maintenance and development
  Ordering CAC equipment and signage
  Maintaining website & social media
  Monthly electronic newsletter
  Analytics and research
  Bama Theatre and CAC calendars
  Bama Theatre restoration projects as needed
  Bama Theatre coordination with Theatre Manager
  Bama Theatre day events supervision as needed
  Electronic database of patrons
  Event planning and promotion

Front cover, bottom: “Wash” image from Jamie Grimes exhibit, CAC
Top: Image from Sky Shineman’s exhibit “Seismic Shift”, CAC
BAMA

Bama Theatre Expenses 2014-2015
*Cleaning at the Bama this fiscal year: $32,039
*Utilities at the Bama this fiscal year: $33,025
*Trane Annual HVAC Contract: $5,540
*AT&T Phone lines: $2,606.46
*AT&T Internet: $2,187.86
*Hughes & Mullenix Annual HVAC Contract: $2,850

Bama Theatre Concessions/Bama Bar 2014-2015
*Concessions Income: $89,924
*Concessions Expenditures: $39,524
*Part Time Staffing Expenditures for all venues: $97,524

*CAC

CAC Background
The Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center (CAC) is a hub for the arts in Tuscaloosa, managed and maintained by The Arts Council. The CAC houses the Alabama Power Grand Hall and The Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa Black Box Theatre which provides a location for performances up to 250 people in an intimate setting perfect for family programming, educational opportunities and wedding or private event rentals. In addition, the CAC includes a satellite office for The Arts Council and the public offices for Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra and Tuscaloosa Community Dancers. The University of Alabama rents a gallery space and The Arts Council maintains a gallery within the CAC.

Fundraising
• $1,101,305 raised as of April 20, 2015. These funds have been raised by The Arts Council from within our community. All current donors can be seen on cac.tuscarts.org.
• The Arts Council has taken out the first loan in the organization’s history to complete construction; $53,000 is needed to pay off loan.

CAC Grand Opening
Since the CAC opened on Dinah Washington’s Birthday August 29, 2013 there have been 117 events including rehearsals, receptions, weddings, tours, fundraisers and performances. Of the 117 events to date 66 have paid to rent the space.

Rental Income
• Budgeted Income for June 1, 2014 - May 31, 2015: $65,000
• Rental income cleared as of April 20, 2015: $68,300

CAC Repairs 2014-2015
Repairs were spent upgrading heating and cooling and draining the catering kitchen grease trap.
*Total cost for repairs this fiscal year: $2,674.37

CAC Purchases 2014 – 2015
• Outdoor Signage - Custom lighted marquee sign designed and created by Metal and Lights: $10,021.48
• Catering Kitchen - Added a u-line vent for the grease trap that was not vented during construction of the building: $480
• Grand Hall/ Rentals - (6) Pub tables: $2,432.55
• 2nd Floor Repair - Replaced 3 broken glass windows: $540
• Additional expenses for purchases include loan payments and security and equipment fees.

*Total cost for purchases at the CAC this fiscal year: $21,613.47

CAC Expenses 2014-2015
*Total spent for cleaning at the CAC this fiscal year: $21,869.68
*Utilities at the CAC this fiscal year: $19,757
*Hughes & Mullenix Annual HVAC Contract: $2,850
*AT&T Phone lines: 1,601.54
*AT&T Internet: $2,288.88

*All expenses paid by The Arts Council general fund.
### Bama Theatre Income and Expenses- 12 year history

#### Bama Theatre Income and Expenses- 12 year history

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#### 35 Year Expenses for Bama Theatre

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### Total

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COMMUNITY

Advocacy
The Arts Council serves as the umbrella organization for over 50 member organizations representing the visual, performing and literary arts, museums and philanthropic organizations. Any non-profit group (IRS-501c3) located in Tuscaloosa County can join The Arts Council as a member organization. Member organizations have access to the community calendar, are eligible to receive grant funding, receive a discount when renting the Bama Theatre and can attend workshops presented by The Arts Council geared toward issues facing non-profits. The Council also sponsors the Druid Arts Awards and Community Arts Conversations.

Left, “Rain” by Mary M. Meares, Purchase Award winner in the 2015 Double Exposure Competition

Alabama State Council on the Arts Residency in Tuscaloosa
March 4 - 6, 2015
Alabama State Council on the Arts staff and Board of Directors were in residence in Tuscaloosa for their quarterly meeting. Member organizations were featured in performances at a reception at the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center, also offering information and promotional items to the public. ASCA Board and Staff represented the first conference held at the new Embassy Suites. The group also toured the Federal Court House, Tuscaloosa Museum of Art and the new Alberta Performing Arts School.

Grants
The Small Grants program was established to aid Tuscaloosa County non-profit organizations, educators and artists in their pursuit of projects contributing to the greater good of local students and citizens through the arts. Since the advent of the program in 1986, local artists and organizations have received more than $130,000. The Monster Makeover Grant was established to award funding from the Arts in Education Fund within the Community Foundation of West Alabama. Tuscaloosa City/County educators pursuing a project with an arts-based element are eligible for this grant.

Individual Artist Grants Awarded
Becky Beamer $750
Tricia Schuster $750

Organization Grants Awarded
Drishti a Vision of Life $2000
The Actor’s Charitable Theatre $1000
Tuscaloosa Children’s Theatre $1000

Total Grants Awarded $3,700

Right, Students creating art work under the instruction of Ruth O’Connor in The Arts Council’s Spectra program.

EDUCATION

Education
Bama Fanfare and Spectra bring the arts to students in West Alabama through programming at the Bama Theatre and performances and presentations taking place at local schools. Additional projects such as Adopt-a-School, Poetry-Out-Loud and the Visual Art Achievement Awards serve to educate and improve the quality of life of students on the local, regional and state levels.

Bama Fanfare and Spectra
• Bama Fanfare served 5,052 pre-K through elementary students from local city, county and private schools in Tuscaloosa County at the Bama Theatre. Bus transportation for some schools was made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation of West Alabama.
• Spectra served over 1,120 students at local schools, exposing them to multiple artistic disciplines.

Additional Arts Council Education Outreach
• Artist Kevin Reese was the featured educator in the SchoolSculptures residency March 23 - 27 for 4th and 5th grade students at Alberta Performing Arts School and University Place Elementary School. A joint project between The Arts Council and the Tuscaloosa City Schools, the week-long workshop involved art, math, physics and teamwork in the production of permanent moving sculptures (mobiles) for the schools. Total student/artist/staff contacts: 450. Made possible in part by grant funding from the Alabama State Council on the Arts. (pictured left)
• Serves as regional coordinator for the Visual Art Achievement Awards with 10 schools and 102 students represented and 125 attending the reception and awards ceremony.
• Serves as regional coordinator for Poetry Out Loud, serving 19 counties. 6 schools were represented with 696 students participating in the classroom competitions and 14 advancing to the regional competition. Local student Nicole Lounw, Holy Spirit Catholic School, won first place in the State competition and will advance to the national competition in Washington, D.C.
• Serves the students of Westwood Elementary through the Adopt-A-School program, providing arts enrichment activities. 934 student contacts were made during SpectraFest with 106 teachers, staff and volunteers.
• In-service Workshop for local art teachers.
• Double Exposure presented 320 entries from Alabama artists, 83 exhibited, with 21 adults and 66 juniors submitting multiple pieces of artwork.
• 23 artists participated in the West Alabama Juried Show.
• Hosted Rep. Terri Sewell’s 7th District Congressional Art Competition in the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center in April, 2015.

Gallery Exhibits
Art Competitions include the Double Exposure statewide photography exhibit and the West Alabama Juried show serving artists in West Alabama counties. Galleries are also open to individual artists and groups on approval. Exhibits taking place at the Bama’s Junior League Gallery are noted. All others took place at the Arts Council Gallery at the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center.

June – Yvonne Wells
July – Jimmy Grimes
August – Hannah Brown
September – Joni Gunder
September - Arc of Tuscaloosa County (Bama)
October - B Side
October – Jennifer Hamner (Bama)
November – West AL Juried Show (Bama)

November - Sky Shineman and [ENTER]Connect
December / January – Amy Pirkle
January - Double Exposure (Bama)
February– Yvonne Wells
February – Visual Art Achievement Awards (Bama)
March - TAUP
April – Chris Davisport
May – Greg Catmull

Made possible in part by grant funding from the Community Foundation of West Alabama.
Nationally, the arts industry generates more than $135 billion of economic activity - $61 billion by the nation’s nonprofit arts and culture organizations in addition to $74 billion in event-related spending expenditures by their audiences. This economic activity supports over 4 million full-time jobs and generates over $86 billion in resident household income. Our industry also generates $22 billion in revenue to local, state and federal governments every year - a yield well beyond their collective $4 billion in arts allocations.

Alabama’s Creative Economy

The creative industries in Alabama represent 4,781 businesses, employing a total of 71,081 people, who earn annual wages totaling more than $2 billion, and generate almost $8.7 billion in annual revenue. These figures represent 4.9% of the state’s businesses, 3.7% of the state’s employment, at least 2.9% of all wages earned and 2.5% of all business revenue.

From the Director:

The arts, with their indescribable beauty, their thought provoking narratives, and sometimes challenging messages, enrich our lives and unite our separate journeys. Too many times we take for granted the many elements that are required to make a community a great place to live and work. Of the many things playing a part in the development of a region as a complete picture, the arts continually fulfill a role of unequalled status. The arts enlighten, entertain and educate. Paul Allen, Co-Founder of Microsoft, once said “In my own philanthropy and business endeavors, I have seen the critical role that the arts play in stimulating creativity and in developing vital communities….the arts have a crucial impact on our economy and are an important catalyst for learning, discovery, and achievement in our country.” West Alabama is a part of that discovery and achievement. The arts, enable us to see the world differently, compel us to think and maybe even have a better understanding of each other.

When signing into existence the National Endowment on the Arts, Lyndon Johnson said this, “Art is a nation’s most precious heritage. For it is in our works of art that we reveal to ourselves and to others the inner vision which guides us as a nation. And where there is no vision, the people perish.”

Sandra Wolfe, Executive Director
The Arts Council of Tuscaloosa

Statistics courtesy of the Alabama State Council on the Arts (arts.state.al.us) and Americans for the Arts (americansforthearts.org).