THE ARTS COUNCIL

ARTS COUNCIL MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS (501c3 NONPROFITS)

- Actor's Charitable Theatre
- Alabama Blues Project
- Alabama Choir School
- Alabama Heritage Magazine
- Alabama Public Radio/WUAL
- Arts 'n Autism
- Brookwood High School Musical Theatre Department
- Children's Hands-On Museum
- City of Tuscaloosa Arts & Entertainment
- Drishti
- Kentuck Museum Association
- Kip Tyner Productions
- Nano Fiction
- The Pointe Society of West Alabama
- Prentice Concert Chorale
- Shelton Community College - Scholarship and Fine Arts
- String Quartet Society of Tuscaloosa
- The Mystic Krewe of the Druids
- Theatre Tuscaloosa
- Tuscaloosa Academy Fine Arts
- Tuscaloosa Children's Theatre
- Tuscaloosa City Schools Fine Arts
- Tuscaloosa Community Dancers
- Tuscaloosa County High School Drama Program
- Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society
- Tuscaloosa Museum of Art: Home of the Westervelt Collection
- Tuscaloosa Public Library
- Tuscaloosa Sister Cities International
- Tuscaloosa Tourism & Sports Commission
- Tuscaloosa Symphony Guild
- Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra
- Tuscaloosa & University Painters
- The University of Alabama Community Music School
- The University of Alabama College of Arts and Sciences
- The University of Alabama Creative Campus
- The University of Alabama Department of Art and Art History
- The University of Alabama Department of Theatre & Dance
- The University of Alabama English Department
- The University of Alabama Honors College
- The University of Alabama Opera Guild
- The University of Alabama Museums
  Paul W. Bryant Museum
  Museum of Natural History
  Moundville Archaeological Park
- The University of Alabama Paul R. Jones Gallery
- The University of Alabama Press
- The University of Alabama School of Music
- West Alabama AIDS Outreach
- West Alabama Quilters Guild

HISTORY AND PURPOSE

ARTS COUNCIL FORMED WITH IMPRESSIVE SUPPORT

The formation of an Arts and Humanities Council in Tuscaloosa County is being cheered all along the line as a cultural shot-in-the-arm for our community. The high enthusiasm of its organizers (a committee of 58 members) has been matched with encouragement from business, from the school systems, from our artistic establishment, and from the community at large. Some feared that it might be missing, but they weren't quite sure what.

The purpose of the Arts Council is to make available to all our citizens—young and old, loaded or broke, gifted or not—the opportunity to participate as performers or appreciative spectators—the opportunity to enjoy an involvement in the arts and to encourage in our city and county the growth of a creative and civilized environment.

There are several ways in which the Tuscaloosa Arts Council is in the process of carrying out such an ambitious purpose. It offers encouragement, exchange of information, and support to those groups who are already making major contributions, such as the West Alabama Art Association, the Little Theatre, and the Symphony Guild. In addition it is helping to revitalize those that have languished, such as the Children's Theatre, and it will encourage the formation of many possible additions to the cultural scene, such as a community orchestra, dance group, or a children's museum. The Council hopes to bring to the community some of the

Conferring on business of the Tuscaloosa Arts Council are three of the five officers. L to R they are Mr. William E. Pickens, executive director; Mrs. Doris Leopard, president; and Dr. Allen Trimble, vice president. Not shown are the secretary, Mrs. John Frankel, treasurer, and Joanna Jenkins, secretary.

Established in 1970 by a group of citizens dedicated to the arts, the mission of The Arts Council is to promote and encourage the arts and humanities in Tuscaloosa County. The Arts Council serves as the umbrella organization for 50 Member Organizations, offers educational programs, and manages the historic Bama Theatre and the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center.

BAMA THEATRE

Established in 1938 through funds from the Public Works Administration (PWA), the historic Bama Theatre continues to captivate audiences with its twinkling lights and exciting year-round performance calendar. Managed by The Arts Council and occupied almost 300 days per year, the theatre is a cornerstone of cultural activity and community events in Tuscaloosa and West Alabama. The venue provides a rental location for productions presented by non-profit member organizations and community groups as well as concerts presented by outside promoters. Programming presented by The Arts Council includes the Bama Art House Film Series, educational programs, and local and statewide art exhibits.

DINAH WASHINGTON CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

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, perfect for weddings and private event rentals, and The Rotary Club of Tuscaloosa Black Box Theatre which provides a location for performances in an intimate setting for family programming and educational opportunities. The University of Alabama rents a gallery space and The Arts Council maintains a gallery within the CAC. The facility also houses offices for the Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra and Tuscaloosa Community Dancers.

COMMUNITY & ADVOCACY

The Arts Council serves as the umbrella organization for over 50 non-profit group (IRS-501c3) member organizations representing the visual, performing and literary arts, museums, and philanthropic organizations. Local community members and corporations can also join as individuals or corporate sponsors. The Council also sponsors the Druid Arts Awards and Community Arts Conversations. With two gallery spaces available, the venues provide local visual artists spaces to display their art, as well as competitions that provide advancement and connection with other artists. The Tuscaloosa City Schools hosted its 4th annual Canstruction, Jr. event in 2017, providing the second opportunity for unique student works to be displayed at the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center.

EDUCATION

The Arts Council provides arts education opportunities to students at the Bama Theatre, the Dinah Washington Cultural Arts Center, and on site at West Alabama schools through Bama Fanfare and Spectra. Disciplines include theatre, music, dance, visual art, and poetry. The Arts Council's programming exposes students to a wide range of activities conducive to academic and social development. Additional programming includes Poetry Out Loud, Visual Art Achievement Awards, Teacher Workshops, and support of Westwood Elementary through the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama Adopt-A-School Program.

IMPACT

Students engaged in arts learning have higher GPAs and standardized test scores, and lower drop-out rates. The arts and culture sector is a $730 billion industry which represents 4.2 percent of the nation's GDP—a larger share of the economy than transportation, tourism, and agriculture (U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis). The nonprofit arts industry alone generates $135 billion in economic activity annually (spending by organizations and their audiences), which supports 4.1 million jobs and generates $22.3 billion in government revenue. Creativity is among the top 5 applied skills sought by business leaders with 72 percent saying creativity is of high importance when hiring. The Conference Board's Ready to Innovate report concludes "The arts—music, creative writing, drawing, dance—provide skills sought by employers of the 3rd millennium." (Source: Americans for the Arts)

www.tuscarts.org