

GREENVILLE HONORS ITS OWN

For over 20 years, the Greenville Arts Council has honored artists with roots in Washington County who have made a significant contribution to the arts and been recognized outside the Delta for his or her work. These awards are an important part of the Greenville Arts Council's mission to promote and support the arts in our area. Some notable artists with beginnings in our area include:

Steve Azar Steve is a songwriter, singer and musician who began writing songs when he was 10. His debut album included the breakout single, I Don't Have to Be Me (Til Monday), which became the country blues rockers first hit. He has shared the stage with some of music's best including Amy Grant, Brad Paisley, Faith Hill, Tim McGraw and Bob Seger & the Silver Bullet Band. He released the critically-acclaimed album Indianola, in 2008. The project's first single, Moo La Moo was another Top 40 hit for Steve. For more information, visit www.steveazarlive.com

Bill Beckwith Beckwith has produced public and private bronzes for more than 30 years. He is represented in public and private collections nationwide. His commissioned work includes "B.B. King," city of Indianola; "Flag Bearer, Mississippi 11th," Gettysburg National Military Park; "William Faulkner," Oxford City Hall, and in 2010 Beckwith sculpted Q. C. Lamar, who was a Supreme Court Justice and secretary of the Interior after representing Mississippi in both U. S. Senate and House of Representatives before he died in 1893. Beckwith's numerous awards and honors include winner of the statewide Governor's Award of Excellence in the Arts in 2001. Originally from Greenville, Beckwith works out of his studio in Taylor. He also is an adjunct assistant professor of art at Ole Miss.

Hodding Carter III Hodding is an award-winning journalist, having won four national Emmy Awards in the 1980s for his television documentaries for a media criticism series. In the 1980s and early 1990s, he was a panelist on This Week with David Brinkley and a frequent correspondent on the PBS series Frontline. Carter is also the author of two books, The Reagan Years and The South Strikes Back. Hodding's career has also included much work in public service. He served as spokesman of the Department of State and as Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs during the Iran hostage crisis. He has served as professor of leadership and public policy at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Robbie Fisher Robbie is an independent film producer who has co-produced several documentaries with Mississippi Public Broadcasting including Boogaloo and Eden: Sustaining the Sound, The Singing River: Rhythms of Nature, and The Gulf Islands: Mississippi's Wilderness Shore.

Walt Grayson Walt is a television personality with WLBT in Jackson. His programs include WLBT's Look Around Mississippi and Mississippi ETV's Mississippi Roads. He is the author of three books, Jackson the Good Life, Looking Around Mississippi with Walt Grayson and Looking Around Mississippi Some More With Walt Grayson. Walt was inducted into the Associated Press Mississippi Broadcasters Hall of Fame. For more information, visit www.wlbt.com.

Angela Jackson Angela is a poet, playwright and author. Some of the award-winning authors published poetry works include: The Greenville Club, Solo in the Boxcar Third Floor E, and All These Roads Be Luminous: Poems New and Selected, which was nominated for the National Book Award. Her plays include Witness, Shango Diaspora: An African American Myth of Womanhood and Love, and When the Wind Blows. Her latest work, her first novel, is titled Where I Must Go, and was published in September.

Leon Z. Koury Born in Greenville, MS, in 1909, Son of Syrian immigrants who owned grocery in Greenville. Koury wrote to Greenville writer Walker Percy Alexander and asked advice on writing. Percy invited Koury to his house and was impressed by the art on Koury's poetry notebook. Koury became a sculptor of busts of William Faulkner, William Alexander Percy (in 1964 Percy bust was covered by *Time* and *Life* magazines) and busts of Negro heads. In 1939 Koury was named director of then new Delta Art Center in Greenville. He was the mentor of many Mississippi artists and writers including William Beckwith.

Marie Lillo Marie was born and raised in Leland, MS, to the late Jimmy and Conchetta Lillo of Lillos Restaurant in Leland. She graduated college from Loyola University and began singing Opera at the MET in New York right after college! Her work crossed all media including theatres from Mark Taper, Globe Theatre to the Guthrie. You may have seen her on Broadway '42nd Street', and 'Over the River and Through the Woods.' She also guest starred on TV in 'Passions,' 'Law and Order,' 'General Hospital,' 'ABC (MOW)', plus 'toured with Milton Berle Show' and 'Death Trap' w/ Leslie Nielson, etc. to name just a few. Singing and acting brought her to many stages in Las Vegas, too. She taught voice and acting in Los Angeles, California until her death February 1, 2011.

Hank Nelken Hank is a screenwriter and director. Since graduating from the USC School of Cinema/Television, Hank Nelken has sold a dozen feature screenplays, a television pilot, and had four feature films produced including *Saving Silverman* starring Jack Black, *Are We Done Yet?* starring Ice Cube, and *Mamas Boy* starring Diane Keaton, Jeff Daniels, Jon Heder, and Anna Faris. In addition, Nelken has rewritten multiple scripts for various studios including Warner Brothers where he also adapted a book and was given a blind deal. As a director, Nelken recently completed *Hostage: A Love Story*, a comedy short starring Zachary Quinto (*Star Treks* Spock) that premiered on Will Ferrell's *Funny or Die* website. Currently, his feature screenplay *Something Borrowed* is in pre-production at Lakeshore Entertainment with Jennifer Garner in negotiations to star.

Alex ONeal Painter, a Mississippi native, born in Starkville, raised in Jackson and Greenville, now lives in Brooklyn, NY., had an installation at Mississippi Museum of Art in 2005. In 1999 received a Guggenheim Fellowship in Painting. Has received other awards from National Endowment for the Arts, New York Foundation for the Arts, and Tennessee arts Commission. His drawings and paintings address American community, especially the American South. Drawn images are combined with collage materials from the 1930s to the 1970s and depict typically American themes, such as the homestead and family, Hollywood, or dramatic landscapes.

JerMichael Riley JerMichael currently teaches music at Greenville High School. Prior to his return to Greenville, he was Music Director at the Jerusalem Temple Church of God in Christ where his father and pastor is Supt. Roy L. Riley, Sr.. JerMichael is a lead vocalist of the Grammy/Stellar Award-winning and world-renowned Mississippi Mass Choir which he joined in 1996. Since then, JerMichael has been blessed to tour with the choir throughout the United States of America as well as many countries abroad. JerMichael wants God to get the glory out of everything he does. God gave me this talent for one reason, and thats to give Him the glory and honor that He deserves. JerMichael received his bachelors degree from Jackson State University in Communications and a minor in Music Education (with emphasis on the voice). He also received his Masters degree from Freed Hardeman University in Curriculum and Instruction. www.jermichaelriley.com

Curtis Wilkie Curtis journalism career began in 1963 at the Clarksdale Press Register and after working on Capitol Hill and for newspapers in Delaware, he joined the Boston Globe staff, where he served as national and foreign correspondent until he retired in 2000. During his tenure at the Globe, he covered seven presidential campaigns, served as White House Correspondent from 1977 to 1982 and served as the chief of the newspapers Washington bureau. In addition to writing for national magazines and publishing several books, Wilkie has served as a visiting professor of journalism at the University of Mississippi since 2002. For more information, visit <http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/overby/curtiswilkieprofile.htm>.

Hattie Mae Winston Hattie Mae Winston was born in Lexington and grew up in nearby Greenville, Mississippi. Winston attended Howard University in Washington, D.C. after receiving a full voice scholarship. Winston moved back to New York City after one year at Howard in 1964 and enrolled in an actor's group study workshop, and success came quickly. In 1968, she became a replacement performer in *Hair* in 1969 obtained a part in *Does a Tiger Wear a Necktie?* and in 1970 was cast in *The Me Nobody Knows*, all significant Broadway roles. In 1971, she had another replacement role in *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. In 1983, she scored a starring role in the critically acclaimed Broadway play *The Tap Dance Kid*. Her roles in *To Take Up Arms* and *Up the Mountain* earned her two Los Angeles Critics Drama-Logue awards, and she has been the recipient of a variety of other theatrical honors, including two Obie Awards, CEBA Awards and an Audelco Award for her contributions to the world of theater. She has also worked as an independent producer and director, and was responsible for reviving Langston Hughes' *Black Nativity* off-Broadway. She also had a regular role on the Emmy-award winning PBS-TV series *The Electric Company*, where she played Sylvia. She played

Gloria Davis in the critically acclaimed series *Homefront* and has been cast in numerous television programs since, including *Nurse, E.R., Port Charles, The Parent Hood, Malcolm & Eddie, The Smart Guy* and *Scrubs*. She most recently played Margaret, a headstrong nurse on the CBS sitcom *Becker*. Her film credits include *Jackie Brown, Meet the Deedles, Beverly Hills Cop III* and Clint Eastwood's *True Crime*.

Benjamin Wright Benjamin Wright was a very happy individual as he watched the 46th Annual Grammy Awards. Benjamin provided string orchestration for the two biggest albums of the year: OutKasts *Speakerboxxx/The Love Below* and Justin Timberlakes *Justified*. Benjamin Wright has had a long career with a string of hit recordings under his belt, working as a producer, engineer, arranger, and songwriter with such acts as Brandy, Destinys Child, Dru Hill, Aretha Franklin, Quincy Jones, James Ingram, Janet Jackson, Michael Jackson, and many others.

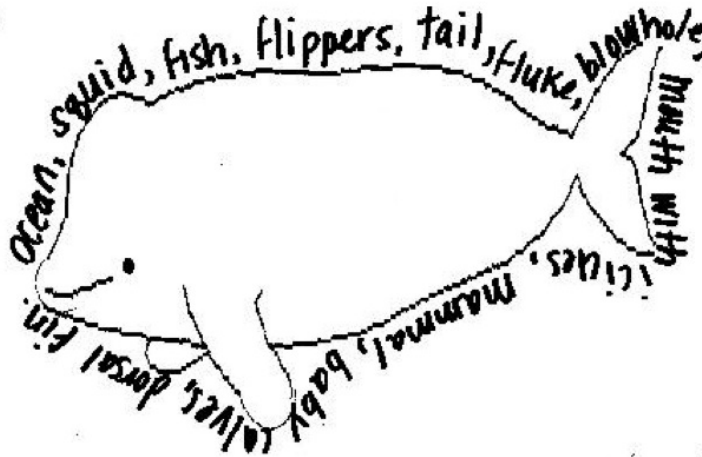
ACTIVITIES

Writing Prompts

1. What makes your hometown unique?
2. What individuals helped forge the unique identity of the Mississippi Delta?
3. Who would you recognize as an outstanding citizen of Greenville?
4. How would you show them how important they are to your community?

Shape Poem

A shape poem is a poem that is written in the shape of an object you are talking about or is written around a picture. What shape do you think represents your community or the state of Mississippi?



COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED

SOCIAL SCIENCE

1. Develop an understanding of the state in relationship to the expanding horizon theme. (C, H, G, E)
 - d. Identify the ideas and individuals that were significant in the development of Mississippi and that helped to forge its unique identity (e.g., cotton as king, Mississippi waterways, music, literature, etc.).
2. Acquire the characteristics to be a responsible citizen at the local, state, national and international level. (C, H, G, E)
 - c. Explain the student's role as a responsible citizen (e.g., justice, equality, responsibility, freedom, integrity, loyalty, honesty, diversity, compassion, fairness, courage, authority, rule of law, etc.)
 - d. Recognize responsibilities of the individual at home school, community and state (e.g., courteous public behavior, respect for the rights and property of others, tolerance, honesty, compassion, self-control, participation in the democratic process, and work for the common good).