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Southern Cultural Heritage FOUNDATION

PRESS RELEASE

July 10, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE SOUTHERN CULTURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION RECEIVES MISSISSIPPI ARTS COMMISSION GRANT

(Vicksburg, MS): The Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation (SCHF) of Vicksburg has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC). This grant is a portion of the \$1.61 million in grants the Commission will award in 2015-2016 and will be used to continue the mission of the SCHF and bring exceptional events and quality programming to the community through artistic excellence. The grants are made possible by continued funding from the Mississippi State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

"The creative economy has never been more vibrant than it is today in the communities across Mississippi," stated Dr. Tom Pearson, Executive Director at MAC. "This agency is honored to play a small role in assisting these organizations to continue their work of reinforcing the value of the arts and the role they play in creative place-making and economic development."

The Southern Cultural Heritage Foundation, a non-profit organization, is committed to preserving the history and architecture of the Southern Cultural Heritage Center, while providing all citizens with the opportunity to experience cultural, educational and artistic programs. Among the numerous activities scheduled throughout the year, these funds are vital in supporting the River Kids free after school art program, the huge variety of concerts, workshops, lectures, exhibits and the many other events and programs that are instrumental in growing the awareness of the arts to the Vicksburg community and surrounding areas.

The Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, serves the residents of the state by providing grants that support programs to enhance communities; assist artists and arts organizations; promote the arts in education and celebrate Mississippi's cultural heritage. Established in 1968, the Mississippi Arts Commission is funded by the Mississippi Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mississippi Endowment for the Arts at the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson and other private sources. The agency serves as an active supporter and promoter of arts in community life and in arts education.

For information from the Mississippi Arts Commission, contact Susan Liles at 601.359.6031 or <u>sliles@arts.ms.gov</u>.