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MISSISSIPPI BOYCHOIR RECEIVES \$15,000 MISSISSIPPI ARTS COMMISSION GRANT

Jackson, MS – The Mississippi Boychoir of Jackson has been awarded a grant of \$15,000 from the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC). This grant is a portion of the \$1.34 million in grants the Commission will award in 2014-2015 and will be used to support the educational and charitable mission of the Boychoir. 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.”

In addition to offering fun, friendship, and travel opportunities, the Boychoir is a valuable part of a young man’s education. Early musical education helps develop brain areas involved in language and reasoning, including physically developing the part of the brain known to be involved in processing language. Students of the arts learn to think creatively and solve problems, and recent studies show that students who study the arts achieve higher grades and are more successful on standardized tests. Exposure to other cultures creates empathy for different people and ideas and bridges cultural chasms, leading to respect of other people and customs. Music also teaches teamwork skills, discipline, and encourages self-expression and cooperation. *Simply put, Mississippi Boychoir changes the lives of young men!*

The Mississippi Arts Commission, a state agency, serves the resident 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, and 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 more information from the Mississippi Arts Commission, contact Susan Liles at 601-359-6031 or sliles@arts.ms.gov.

