

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove Presents Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove recognized the best of Mississippi artists today, as the Governor's Awards for Excellence in the Arts were presented in a ceremony at the Old Capitol. The Mississippi Arts Commission organizes the annual awards event.

"I never cease to be amazed at the breadth and the depth of talent in this state," Musgrove said. "Regardless of the medium – music, dance, visual arts, or the written word – the world knows of someone from Mississippi who is setting the standard."

Along with Beth Clay, chair of the Mississippi Arts Commission, and Bill Dunlap, Musgrove presented awards to several individuals. The Opera and Music Education award was presented to Dr. David S. Blackburn, and the Leadership in Mississippi Heritage award was presented to Thallis Lewis. Charles Burnett received the Artist's Achievement in Filmmaking award, while the Mississippi Alliance for Arts Education received the Arts Education and Advocacy award.

Others recognized with honors include the USA International Ballet Competition receiving the Artistic Achievement in Dance award and William Eggleston receiving the Artist's Achievement in Photography award. Little Milton was named the Blues Ambassador, and the members of Rust College A'Cappella Choir were named the Cultural Ambassadors.

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