

## Business Recovery Grant

**Introduction:** The United States Department of Labor is generously providing funds through a Business Recovery Program for Gulf Coast self-employed artists (visual, literary, performing) and craftsmen. A partnership with the Mississippi Arts Commission, the Mississippi Department of Employment Security and the Twin Districts Workforce Area will facilitate the grant process. This business revitalization program will provide financial assistance of \$5,000 to self-employed artists and craftsmen devastated by Hurricane Katrina in the lower 6 counties to assist them in rebuilding their business. The following requirements are necessary to establish eligibility:

- Applicants are required to attend one orientation session at a local WIN Job Center to establish National Emergency Grant (NEG) eligibility. See orientation schedule below.
- Qualified NEG eligible candidates will then submit a Business Recovery Grant application form to the Mississippi Arts Commission. See required documentation below.
- Grantees must attend a minimum of four hours in training workshops (to be continuously offered) before funds will be administered. The workshops will include cost accounting, writing a business plan, and other helpful information tailored to the art business. Information about workshop times and locations will be posted on the MAC website at [www.arts.state.ms.us](http://www.arts.state.ms.us).
- Applicants must submit a certificate to the Mississippi Arts Commission upon completion of training workshops.
- Grantees will be required to submit receipts for all expenses. These receipts must be included with the grantee's final report. Details on final report submission requirements will be included in grant contract.

### Orientation Schedule:

- July 20            Bay St. Louis – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm (Bay St. Louis Library)
- July 26            Gulfport – 10:00 am to 12 noon
- August 4           Pascagoula – 10:00 am to 12 noon
- August 16          Biloxi – 10:00 am to 12 noon
- August 26          Bay St. Louis – 10:00 am to 12 noon

The funds may be used for the repair or replacement of lost or damaged supplies, equipment, studios or musical instruments. The funds may also be used for the purchase of other business development materials needed for the sale or creation of arts or crafts.

**Eligibility:** To qualify for funding, the applicant must be a professional artist, art business owner or craftsman who meets the following criteria:

- ⊙ earn primary source of annual income through their artistic disciplines;
- ⊙ make a significant time investment in their artistic disciplines through practice and production;
- ⊙ are more than 18 years of age;
- ⊙ are not a full-time student; and
- ⊙ are a permanent, legal resident of one of the lower 6 counties in Mississippi.
- ⊙ NEG eligibility determined at a required orientation session.

**How to Apply for the Grant:** The application form is available on the Mississippi Art Commission's website ([www.arts.state.ms.us](http://www.arts.state.ms.us)). For those without computer access, a printed copy can be requested by calling 601-359-6044. For more information or assistance with the application process, please call the Commission at the above number or email [stormrelief@arts.state.ms.us](mailto:stormrelief@arts.state.ms.us).

**Application Requirements:**

- Completed, signed and dated application form;
- Resume or bio that details your experience as a professional artist, such as exhibits, commissions, classes taught, awards received or concerts performed. The resume must reflect a minimum of three years of work as a professional artist or business owner;
- Samples that show examples of your work, such as websites displaying your art, gallery guides, exhibition lists, CDs or DVDs with images, photocopies of published reviews, articles, literary publications, past performance schedules, etc. Please contact the Commission for assistance with this component if you have lost access to these materials due to the storm.
- Please include a copy of the Twin Districts Workforce Area business plan page that you filled out at the WIN Job Center during the orientation session. It should answer the following questions:
  1. Describe your business prior to August 29, 2005.
  2. How was your business affected by the storm?
  3. How much income has been lost due to the storm (past, present and future).
  4. What is the dollar value of loss in equipment and supplies and lost inventory?
  5. What is your plan for the immediate future?

If you don't have a copy of your business plan page, please make sure to answer the questions above in narrative form.

**Deadline: Please mail, fax, email or hand-deliver your application materials by September 1, 2006 to:**

**Mississippi Arts Commission  
501 North West Street, Suite 701B  
Jackson, MS 39201  
Phone: 601-359-6044  
Fax: 601-359-6008  
[stormrelief@arts.state.ms.us](mailto:stormrelief@arts.state.ms.us)**

**Application below**

