

The Celtic Heritage Society

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www.CelticFestMS.org

Press Release

July 22, 2008 – for immediate release

GRANTS AWARDED FOR CELICFEST MISSISSIPPI

(Jackson, MS) – The Celtic Heritage Society based in Jackson has been awarded a grant from the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC). This grant is a portion of the \$1.2 million in grants the Commission will award in 2008-2009 and will be used to present the 17th CelticFest Mississippi. The grants are made possible by continued funding from the Mississippi State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts.

“Organizations across the state who receive grants from the Mississippi Arts Commission continue to prove that arts programs are vital to the growth of their area. The grants awarded by the Commission provide funding for the staging of festivals, theatre performances and many other arts-related activities,” said Malcolm White, Executive Director of MAC. “Communities across this state are also learning the affect the arts have on the education of their children. Arts-based activities have a proven positive impact on at-risk youth and children enrolled in after-school programs.”

The Celtic Heritage Society (CHS) is a 501(c)3 federally tax exempt nonprofit organization, whose mission is to study, promote, and preserve Celtic traditions and culture in Mississippi. This includes music, dance, language, literature, and other activities native to Celtic nations (Ireland, Scotland, Brittany, Wales, and the Isle of Man).

The main outgrowth of this mission is CelticFest Mississippi, which is held annually the weekend after Labor Day (Sept. 5-7, 2008) at the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Museum in Jackson, MS.

CelticFest Mississippi is a family-oriented event run completely by volunteers (there is no paid staff whatsoever). The CHS encourages participation in its events by all Mississippians, regardless of their own personal ethnic background, and membership is also open to all. For more information about CelticFest, please visit the CelticFest web site: www.CelticFestMS.org.

The Mississippi Arts Commission is a state agency that serves more than 1.7 million people of the state through 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 the funded by the Mississippi Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Wallace Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation, Donna & Jim Barksdale, the Phil Hardin Foundation and other private sources. The Commission serves as the official grants-making and service agency for the arts in Mississippi.

For information from the Mississippi Arts Commission, contact Susan Dobbs – 601/359-6031 or sdobbs@arts.state.ms.us. For informatioin on CelticFest Mississippi, contact Valerie Pledsted at vaple21@gmail.com or 601/366-2775.