2017 FOLKLORISTS IN THE SOUTH RETREAT
April 7-9, 2017

Gray Conference Center, Canton, MS

The Power of Our Stories

All sessions will be held in the Gray Center Meeting Room unless otherwise noted.

Friday, April 7

3:00 PM  Check-in begins

5:30  Greetings
Welcome from Teresa Hollingsworth (Senior Program Director, South Arts), Malcolm White (Executive Director, Mississippi Arts Commission) and Grae Dickson (Executive Director, Gray Center)

6:00  Dinner

7:00  National Updates
Our colleagues from national organizations share news and expectations for the coming year.

7:30  News from the Field
Briefly introduce yourself and share a quick (two sentences!) update about your work.

8:15  Break

8:45  An Evening of Mississippi Blues
Canton native and Blues artist, Grady Champion, will join us for a discussion about his music heritage and career, and share a few songs. We will wrap-up the evening with a documentary film screening of Shake 'Em On Down: The Blues According to Fred McDowell. Filmmaker, writer and expert on all things Blues, Scott Barretta, will serve as the evening’s moderator.

Saturday, April 8

7:00 AM  Morning Walk

8:00  Breakfast

9:00  Professional Development Workshop, Part 1:
Kiran Singh Sirah, President of the International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough, Tennessee will explore the role of storytelling as a tool for conflict prevention, community development and social change. Through examples of social justice, race relations and
community cooperation, Kiran will explain how personal relations developed through storytelling can help us to frame discussions to work through these difficult conversations.

10:15  
Break

10:30  
**Professional development workshop, Part 2:**
Our workshop will continue as we participate in small-group activities.

Noon  
Lunch

**12:45 PM  Session: Publishing the Stories We Collect**
We will explore both digital and print publishing. Panelists: Katie Keene (University Press of Mississippi), and Margaret Lovecraft (LSU Press), Sara Camp Milam (Managing Editor, Southern Floodways Alliance/Gravy) and Amanda Malloy (Mississippi Folklife). Discussant: Nancy Groce (American Folklife Center).

2:30  
**Afternoon Fieldtrip/Free Time**
Depart Gray Center
Our Historic Canton Fieldtrip will include tours of The Multicultural Museum and Canton Movie Museum. Stroll around the Historic Courthouse Square, visit local shops and admire adjacent neighborhoods to discover a number of homes on the National Register of Historic Places.

You may opt to spend the afternoon at the Gray Center napping, reading, walking (five miles of trails!), rocking on a porch or canoe paddling on Rose Hill Lake.

4:30  
Tour & tasting at Rich Grain Distilling Co.

5:00  
Dinner at Rich Grain Distilling Co.

6:30  
Depart for evening event at St. James Missionary Baptist Church

7:00  
**An Evening with St. James Missionary Baptist Church and the Association for Cultural Equity**
In 1978 Alan Lomax, Worth Long, and John Bishop conducted fieldwork in Canton and Madison County, Mississippi including recording worship services at the St. James Missionary Baptist. These recordings were included in the acclaimed PBS American Patchwork series. Collaborating with St. James, we will screen fieldwork footage and hear from congregants about their fieldwork experience. Rev. Clyde Tate (Pastor, St. James) and Jorge Mateus (Executive Director, Association for Cultural Equity) will be with us. Scott Barretta will serve as the evening’s moderator.
Sunday, April 9

8:00 AM  Breakfast at the Gray Center

8:45  Session: Storytelling as Advocacy, For Others & Ourselves
Sue Eleuterio (independent folklorist) will walk us through best practices for using the American Folklore Society’s The Folklore Advocacy Toolkit to hone our skills to advocate for our organizations, communities, and ourselves.

10:00  Break

10:15  Session: Putting Stories to Work
We will learn about successful projects and partnerships that highlight the importance of community stories. Panelists: Mark Brown (Kentucky Arts Council), Alison Fast and Chandler Griffin (Barefoot Workshops), and Heather Gerhart (The Collaborative Digital Storytelling Hub). Discussant: Bradley Hanson (Tennessee Arts Commission).

11:45  Retreat wrap-up
Teresa Hollingsworth, South Arts

Depart for home!

Schedule/speakers are subject to change.

This document available in alternate formats. Please contact South Arts at (404) 874-7244.