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ARTS COUNCIL OF SOUTHEAST MISSOURI RECEIVES GRANT

CAPE GIRARDEAU, MO-- The Arts Council of Southeast Missouri recently received a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The grant will help in continuing the mission and development of the Arts Council of Southeast Missouri by allowing the organization to host an artist-residency program in conjunction with classes offered at the Alternative Education Center in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. This program is slated to begin in January 2013, and will feature three different artists across a variety of disciplines for weeklong residencies at the school during the spring semester.

According to Murielle Wyman, Executive Director of the Arts Council, "This is such an exciting opportunity for us to work with a select group of students who really don't have access to arts-related extracurricular activities. After the program is concluded, each of the students at the Alternative Education Center will have had a chance to work one-on-one with a nationally acclaimed artist."

The Arts Council of Southeast Missouri was established in 1961. Its sole purpose is to provide a forum for the residents of the Southeast Missouri region to explore, experience, and share in the diversity and the excitement of the arts. Other significant contributions include the annual Christmas Arts and Crafts Extravaganza, monthly art exhibits and First Friday gallery openings, the Children's Arts Festival, Poetry Out Loud, the Visual Arts Cooperative, juried exhibitions, and resources for local artists.

"The Arts Council of Southeast Missouri strives to educate about the multiple artistic disciplines, while encouraging meaningful relationships between artists and the community," Wyman said.

Great thanks go to the National Endowment for the Arts for this generous grant. The National Endowment for the Arts is an independent federal agency supporting artists and arts organizations and bringing the arts to all Americans.

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