



PROGRAM PLAN

20 25

*Body Language, performance by
Nyugen Smith & Ottie James as part
of Masta My Language, 2022.*



CENTRE FOR THE LIVING ARTS
dba Alabama Contemporary Art Center

EIN: 63-1236563

elizabeth elliott, Executive Director (251) 208-5660
Chandra Brown, Board Chair

301 CONTI ST, MOBILE, AL 36602
alabamacontemporary.org

Detail of Jenny Day's site-specific installation, *A Feast to Remember*, 2023.



OUR MISSION

The mission of Alabama Contemporary is to support cultural production, provide space for courageous conversations that shape identity, and seed growth in the greater creative economy. We support living artists, and through our educational, public and curatorial programs advocate for human dignity and a diversity of perspectives. We strive to be a partner, resource and light in the Deep South.

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ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

2025 will be a game-changing year for Alabama Contemporary Art Center. As our brick-and-mortar at 301 Conti Street in Mobile, Alabama, goes into redevelopment, we are shifting into a transient model built on partnership, working in mutual aid within the network of cultural producers and presenters we are tapped into. We have the opportunity to go Statewide with programming; and to use our resources and expertise to further the mission of many organizations - art and non-art, large and small. The 2025 schedule includes exhibitions as well as pop-up community engagements, site-specific interventions, performances, film screenings, and more.

The program plan for 2025 will be a rhizome that builds connections across geographies and dividing lines. Project by project, we are thinking through 'site' as an extension of each concept in order to connect programs with their most relevant audience, or deepen the relationship between an artist's work and the lived world around it. Many of the projects pertain to multiple communities, and will function as a moveable feast over the course of multiple years and sites. Through our expanded partnerships we are offering research opportunities for artists to access multiple resources around the State.

The goal of any museum is to create space that welcomes dialogue, and allows its community to actively create new meanings by engaging with other perspectives, historical or contemporary. We see this transient period as an opportunity to broaden and deepen how we do that work; an opportunity to meet the community where they are and to leverage the various assumptions we have about public and private spaces for greater meaning.

EXHIBITIONS

GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED BY
 THE ANDY WARHOL FOUNDATION FOR THE VISUAL ARTS
 NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS



VACANT SITE
 Mobile, AL

JANUARY 2025

THE ACT OF ACTING

New work by Shawn Campbell

Few things embody Americana like the Myth of the American Cowboy. The Cowboy, like the American Dream, is something that has been assembled to present to the masses as a way they should forge themselves to become something better. Through the lens of the American Cowboy and its relationship to popular culture, politics, history, and mythos, Shawn Campbell explores new ways of making and engaging with viewers in order to address complex, problematic topics.



PAUL R. JONES MUSEUM
 University of Alabama | Tuscaloosa, AL

JUNE 2025

AS PRETTY DOES

Work from The Do Good Fund
 Curated by Micah Mermilliod

As Pretty Does glimpses the essence of the Deep South through the lenses of eight photographers. The artists featured often take a non-traditional approach to photography that places capturing movement, emotion, and the spirit of the moment above all else. By meeting people where they are and creating imagery by whatever means necessary, these works capture the soul of the South, unposed, raw, and unadulterated.



WIREFRASS MUSEUM OF ART
 Dothan, AL
 COLEMAN CENTER FOR THE ARTS
 York, AL

JULY 2025

BOUT IT BOUT IT

New work by Vitus Shell, Curated by Benjamin Hickey

Louisiana-based artist Vitus Shell creates portraits that challenge the grand tradition of portraiture within art history, while sharing a concern for the historical representation of Black bodies. This exhibition will be a combination of existing work and new work from a May 2025 artist residency at Coleman Center for the Arts in York, AL, depicting members of the community in dialogue with the American Dream on their own terms.



HUO BAO ZHU GALLERY
 Troy University | Troy, AL

SEPTEMBER 2025

TERLINGUA: COLOR AND MOVEMENT

New work by Angel Fernandez & Winter Rusiloski

This exhibition explores the mythological landscape of the West, grappling with border issues of immigration, movement, power and struggle. Once an illegal immigrant himself, Fernandez creates performative sculpture and video work exploring struggle and journey within the landscape inspired by the brutal and subtractive device. Rusiloski, with a practice grounded in landscape painting, collages fragments of photographs from their travels and integrates them in her paintings.

PROGRAMS & POP-UPS

These site-specific happenings are where we get weird y'all. Leave your preconceived notions at the door (if there is a door) and come have a good time!

POP-UP ACTIVATIONS

Artist-led activations of non-traditional space can take the form of performances, dance parties, wrestling matches, really anything you can imagine.

2025 FEATURED ARTISTS

Carrie Fonder (FL) | Tansy Xiao (NY)
Jacob Reptile (LA) | Amina Ross (NY)

QUARTERLY | CHANGING VENUES

ARTWALK / PECHA KUCHA

Monthly Artwalks in Mobile will be a moveable feast of programming across all creative disciplines. Hosted by various local establishments, we will bring local artists and performers directly to the public to give presentations and performances in the *pecha kucha* format. This presentation style focuses on delivering the most engaging information or performance the presenter can in 20 slides with only 20 seconds each, making for a firesale learning experience highlighting our community's most out-of-the-box thinkers.

MONTHLY | DOWNTOWN MOBILE

ARTSOCIAL

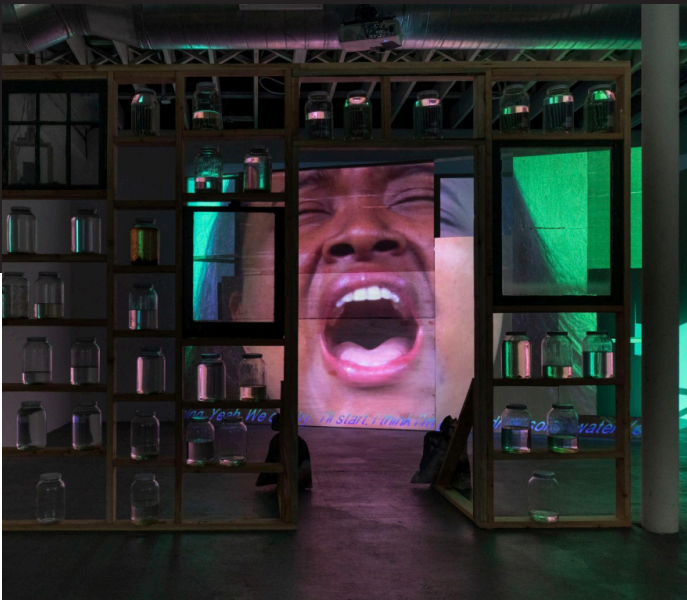
3 Mobile arts organizations – Mobile Arts Council, Alabama Contemporary, and Mobile Museum of Art – come together quarterly to present a roving arts networking series. We have drinks by donation, conversational games, membership giveaways, and a brief presentation and discussion with our host organizations. This opportunity to mingle with fellow artists, art workers, collectors, and arts enthusiasts rotates each quarter.

QUARTERLY | MOBILE

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

This residency program prioritizes experimentation and exploration that expands the scope of an artist's work, and benefits the community. The two-year commitment offers an artist studio space, professional development, and an exhibition outcome in exchange for outreach teaching and participation in public programs that serve local needs. In 2025, we'll accept one new artist to the program through an open call process.

GENEROUSLY
SUPPORTED BY



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Without the usage of onsite education facilities, our adult and K-12 educational programming for 2025 will be conducted via outreach partnerships, pop-ups, and studio visits, with the assistance of ACAC's Artists-in-Residence. This isn't a comprehensive list, but a framework on which to deepen arts engagement within our community.



ADULT EDUCATION

HOW TO BE AN ARTIST

Professional Development Workshop Series

Our "How to Be an Artist" professional development series is a structured program designed to help individuals develop the skills, knowledge, and mindset necessary to succeed as an artist. These series will cover various aspects of an artistic career, from honing creative skills to understanding the business side of art.

QUARTERLY | MOBILE SPECIFIC

ADULT EDUCATION ONE-OFFS

These Artist-led sessions on a variety of disciplines, from screen-printing to glass fusing, will spark new interests and personal growth. Practical workshops help participants develop or enhance artistic skills quickly. Led by professional working artists, adult classes fuel both the current and next generation of art-making.

QUARTERLY | MOBILE SPECIFIC

ARTIST SALONS

With this quarterly ticketed program, we're calling back to the days of old - minus the pomp and circumstance - where folks gather to entertain and educate by sharing their individual creative pursuits in an intimate setting. For each salon, we'll facilitate the opening of an artist's home or studio, where they will present a workshop or interactive art pursuit, followed by a potluck feast and discussion.

QUARTERLY | MOBILE SPECIFIC

K-12 EDUCATION

AMP UP ARTS | SPRING 2025

By partnering with the Mobile Arts Council and Amp Up Arts, ACAC aims to bring high-quality art experiences to underserved areas within the MCPSS school system. This initiative promotes cultural inclusivity throughout our community through the arts. Our outreach efforts empower communities, enhance cultural awareness, and foster a shared appreciation for the arts.

SUMMER CAMP CARNIVAL | SUMMER 2025

This artist-led Summer camp will be a multisite exploration of theater, visual arts, animation and PLAY to create a carnival for kids, by kids.

MOBILE SPECIFIC: LOCATION TBD

Alabama Contemporary is committed to collaborating with cultural, educational and civic partners to promote community engagement, and deepen our impact. Using exhibitions as a springboard, we host performances, social service outreach activities, awareness events, and talks throughout the year. Whether with a dance party or panel discussion, we squeeze the most meaning out of art (and life) as possible.

PARTNERSHIPS



The Verdant Fund is an annual project grant that funds independent artists with site-specific exhibition concepts, independent projects, or new work as it is relevant to the community we serve. An expansion of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts Regional Re-granting program, the Verdant Fund supports creative practice born of and within Alabama. Administered through a partnership between Alabama Contemporary Art Center (Mobile, AL), Coleman Center for the Arts (York, AL), and Space One Eleven (Birmingham, AL), our goal is to reach a broad range of artists across all geographic areas of the state and expand and support creative practice at the margins.

This fund distributes \$60K+ in project grants each year. The goal of our work is to support artists working in community, aid in artist retention in the state, and deepen the network among people in creative practice. In 2025, 9 projects will be funded statewide. Each project is documented at verdantfund.org.

HISTORIC AVENUE CULTURAL CENTER

In partnership with the Mobile County Commission, Alabama Contemporary facilitates monthly satellite programs at the HACC, exploring the lost histories and possible futures for the Historic Avenue community.

BLACK LIFE ARTS & CULTURE COALITION

The Black Life Arts & Culture Coalition (BLACC) is a subcommittee of ACAC's Board of Directors, working to realize public-facing projects that lift up Black artists and voices in the Mobile community, in line with the ACAC mission and in pursuit of equity and accountability in the arts.

MOBILE ANIMATION FILM FESTIVAL

The Mobile Animation Film Festival (MAFF) is a partnership program in its sixth year here at Alabama Contemporary Art Center. Each year, it is MAFF's goal to present the best of student, national, and international animation to the community of Mobile, Alabama. The showcase is dedicated to presenting animations in a variety of mediums, genres, and styles.

OTHER PROGRAMMING PARTNERS

THE RAPE CRISIS CENTER & LIFELINES COUNSELING
PRISM UNITED | CARTOGRAPHER RECORDS



EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

ACAC prides itself on hosting the unexpected. We leverage all the talent in our orbit to create memorable events that tie into, and make maximum use of the art.



WILD THINGS BALL (BIENNIAL)

The Wild Things Ball is our largest event, a biennial ACAC member blowout happening just before All Hallows Eve, where we can all flex our creativity and get weird. This is an artists' ball/member drive/fundraiser where costumes are encouraged and hilarity is downright guaranteed.

BRUNCH RAVE (OCCASIONAL)

Brunch Rave is a mini member drive, happening on years where we don't have a full blown Wild Things Ball. It is a daytime dance party and feast - basically brunch on steroids.

MEET THE ARTIST DINNER (ANNUAL)

We have at least one ticketed formal dinner with a regional artist per year that usually coincides with a larger exhibition preview or program, led by the artists themselves. This is a more formal fundraiser, where attendees can get to know the artist and themes surrounding their work.

NEU DAWN (ANNUAL)

Neu Dawn, the hybrid fashion/art/music brainchild of Courtney Matthews, is a creative project that brings together over 70+ creatives to experiment with large-scale multimedia pieces paired with costumes designed around the Pantone color of the year and a song selected by Matthews.

OTHER EVENTS

- HOBBY HORSE COMPETITION (2025)
- CORPORATE & TEAM BUILDING RETREATS (UPON REQUEST)
- POP-UP PROGRAMS & COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS (ONGOING)

STAFF & BOARD



elizabeth elliott
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Glenn Robertson
DIRECTOR OF STORYTELLING



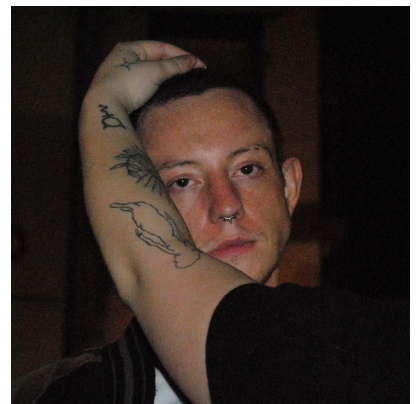
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CURATOR



Micah Mermilliod
CURATOR



Tyrese Bess
PROGRAM MANAGER
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Garrett Grimes
SPECIAL EVENTS MANAGER

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