

## FULTON COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

### Function:

The Fulton County Arts Council is a board of fifteen members appointed to two year terms by the Board of Commissioners. Each Commissioner appoints two members to two year terms; the Chairman of the Arts Council is appointed by the Board as a whole on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Board. The purpose of the Arts Council is to advise the Board of Commissioners on policy issues affecting the welfare of artists and cultural institutions in the community based on the assumption that these institutions are vital to the economic and social well-being of the people of Fulton County. Specifically, the Council makes recommendations each year to the Board of Commissioners on grant contracts to be made between Fulton County and artists and arts groups which serve the Fulton County Community.

The Fulton County Arts Council also has program responsibilities including the School Arts Program, which brings local artists into Fulton County schools; a literary magazine, Catalyst, a Public Art Program which maintains art held by the Fulton County and commissions and purchases art work for the new Fulton County Government Center; a program to stimulate the vitality of communities in South Fulton through workshops and performances; a media program which produces a series of television programs about the arts in Fulton County; and, finally, a program known as

the National Black Artists Festival, which will be inaugurated as a public event in 1988. In 1988, the Fulton County Arts Council will inaugurate a gallery and archival program at the Hammonds House in West End. Under this program the Hammonds House will become a resource center for information about contemporary Black American artists and feature a gallery displaying the artwork of Black Americans. The last event will bring African American artists who are in the front ranks of their disciplines from around the United States to Atlanta to showcase the contributions of Black Americans to our cultural heritage and stimulate interest in the work of local Black artists.

Each year the Arts Council sponsors Salute to the Arts, an event which raises funds for all the arts groups in the community and brings all the artists and major supporters of the arts together to celebrate the achievements of the preceding year and to honor the individuals who have contributed the most to these achievements.

The Arts Council is organized into four committees reflecting program areas: Guidelines, School Arts, Public Art, Strategic Planning and Policy, and Special Projects. In December of 1987, the Council will decide whether to add two new committees, Facilities and Programs.

The structure of the Arts Council and many of its program responsibilities have developed as a result of an in-depth planning process the Council undertook in 1985. A document entitled Action Artsplan 2000 details the products of this planning. Each year the Council updates the planning effort, first at a Symposium held each spring which brings the entire arts community

together, a December retreat held for the members of the Arts Council at which workplans and budgets for the coming year are approved. The thoroughness of the Council's planning process has made it a national model for the 3000 local arts agencies that have sprung up in the United States since 1965. The Council has been chosen to host the annual meeting of the National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies in 1989.

Current Membership:

Robert C. Lower, Chairman	11/27/87
Jo Hunsinger (Farris)	11/27/87
Thomas O'Donnell (Roach)	11/27/88
Clenette Todd (Hightower)	11/27/87
Myrna Anderson (Hightower)	11/27/88
Eleanor Massell (Lomax)	11/27/88
TaRessa Stone (Williams)	11/27/88
David Smith (Eaves)	11/27/87
David Coker (Lowe)	11/27/87
Tom Jones (Eaves)	11/27/87
William Lovett (Roach)	11/27/87
Chris Manos (Lowe)	11/27/88
Yolanda King (King)	11/27/88
Allan Hall (Williams)	11/27/87
Stan Washington (Lomax)	11/27/87

STAFF

Director: Tom Cullen  
Asst. Director: Veronica Njoku

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Tom Cullen has been the Director of the Arts Council since March of 1981. He is appointed by the County Manager and supervises a staff of six people. Mr. Cullen was born in Memphis, Tennessee in 1943, and is a graduate of Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana, with graduate degrees from the University of Iowa. Mr. Cullen has a wife, Amanda, and a five year old son, Charles. He is a member of the Board of the National Association of Local Arts Agencies, serves as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Georgia Council for the Arts, and is a published and produced playwright. He is a member of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

ORGANIZATION

National Black Arts  
Festival

Director

Special Projects

Asst. Director  
(Grants, Contracts,  
Publications)

Administrative Asst.

Receptionist

Public Art  
Coord.

South Fulton Programs  
Coord.

School Arts  
Coord.

Hammonds House  
Librarian