

The Eudora Welty Foundation 2024 National Advisory Board

Mary Chapin Carpenter

Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriter

Bradford Cobb

Partner, Direct Management Group, Inc.; originally from Tunica, MS, and a University of Mississippi graduate; manages careers of Katy Perry and Adam Lambert, among others

William Dunlap

Award-winning, widely-collected artist, writer, arts advocate, and visual arts commentator; author of *Short Mean Fiction: Words and Pictures*; *Dunlap* is a definitive book of his work

Eric Etheridge

Photographer/author of *Breach of Peace: Portraits of the 1961 Freedom Riders*; former editor for *Rolling Stone*, the *New York Observer*, and *Harper's*; website designer for *The Nation*, *Harper's*, *Rolling Stone*; on-line contributor for *New York Times* and Microsoft

W. Ralph Eubanks

Black Power at Ole Miss Faculty Fellow, Center for the Study of Southern Culture, University of Mississippi; Author of *A Place Like Mississippi: A Journey Through a Real and Imagined Literary Landscape*; *The House at the End of the Road: The Story of Three Generations of an Interracial Family in the American South* and *Ever Is a Long Time: A Journey into Mississippi's Dark Past*; Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University; former Eudora Welty Visiting Scholar in Southern Studies, Millsaps College; former director of publishing, The Library of Congress

Michael Fertik

Entrepreneur, investor, writer. Managing Director and Founder of Heroic Ventures and the Executive Chairman and Founder of Reputation.com c/o Tall tree Creative Arts LLC

Morgan Freeman

One of the most highly regarded talents in the film industry; Academy Award winner, recipient of three Obie awards and a Golden Globe award

John Grisham

Best-selling novelist whose works have been translated into 40 languages with nine novels that have been turned into films.

Mary Lynn Kotz

Journalist and author/biographer whose subjects have ranged from civil rights and women's rights to art, including *Upstairs at the White House*, *Rauschenberg: Art and Life*

Ebony Lumumba

Chairman, Department of English, Foreign Languages, and Speech Communication, Jackson State University; former Chairman, Department of English, and Associate Professor of English at Tougaloo College; 2013 Eudora Welty Foundation Graduate Research Fellow; 2014 Humanities Teacher of the Year for Tougaloo College; First Lady of Jackson, Mississippi

Margaret McMullan

Award-winning novelist and writer of novels, memoir, short stories and essays; former Melvin M. Peterson Endowed Chair in Literature, University of Evansville, Evansville, Indiana

William Dunlap

Award-winning, widely-collected artist, writer, arts advocate, and visual arts commentator; author of *Short Mean Fiction: Words and Pictures*; *Dunlap* is a definitive book of his work

Rob McQuilkin

Eudora Welty's literary agent, Massie & McQuilkin Literary Agents, New York, New York

Andrea Overby

Member, Board of Trust, Belmont University; Board Member, The Next Door, Inc.; Past Chair, Mississippi University for Women (MUW) Foundation; Past President, MUW Alumni Association

Charles Overby

Chairman of the Overby Center for Southern Journalism and Politics and an adjunct professor of Journalism at the University of Mississippi; former Chairman, CEO, and president/ Freedom Forum and Diversity Institute and CEO/Newseum

Randall Pinkston

Journalist and educator. Associate Director of the Center for New Media and Strategic Initiatives, Morgan State University, Baltimore, Maryland; former Adjunct Professor of Journalism, University of Mississippi Meek School of Journalism and New Media—Winter Session; former correspondent, Al Jazeera America; long-time news correspondent with CBS; recipient of three national Emmy awards

Clyda Rent

Rent Consulting Group; former president of Mississippi University for Women (MUW), where she initiated the Welty Symposium

Susan Richards Shreve

Novelist, essayist; Professor of English at George Mason University; former president of the PEN/Faulkner Foundation

Lee Smith

Award-winning author of novels and short stories; charter member of Fellowship of Southern Writers; recipient of American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature, Thomas Wolfe Award, the Robert Penn Warren Prize for Fiction, and two O. Henry Awards

Kathryn Stockett

Author of best-seller *The Help*, her first novel; native of Jackson, Mississippi; graduate of the University of Alabama; lived and worked in New York for 20 years; now residing with her daughter in Atlanta, Georgia

Clifton Taulbert

Pulitzer Prize-nominated author; widely-known speaker and founder of The Building Community Institute; most recently, the author of *The Invitation*

Tate Taylor

Actor, director, screenwriter, and producer; director of "The Girl on the Train"; writer, director, and producer of "Get On Up" (The James Brown Story) and "The Help," which received four Academy Award nominations and Best Supporting Actress Award

Alfred Uhry

Award-winning playwright; the recipient of both a Pulitzer Prize and an Academy Award for “Driving Miss Daisy” and Tony Awards for “The Last Night of Ballyhoo” and “Parade”; adapted Welty’s “The Robber Bridegroom” for Broadway

Gayle L. Wicker

Mississippi Director, Visions to Learn; literacy advocate; served as the co-chair and chair of the Reading Is Fundamental Gift of Reading Gala; former Coordinator of Student Services at the University of Mississippi in Tupelo; community volunteer