All performing arts centers rely on private donations to sustain operations and programming. The University of Mississippi supports Ford Center salaries and the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation provided initial funding for opening the facility, but we rely on our Friends of the Ford Center and event or series sponsors to help meet our budget.

Each season’s performances are the Ford Center’s biggest expense, with touring musicals costing as much as $70,000 to bring to Oxford. We want to offer the biggest and the best that our facility can present. This requires support beyond ticket sales. The building is now 15 years old, and to maintain its beauty and functionality we need to repair, replace, and upgrade.

The Gertrude C. Ford Center has commissioned an original donor recognition tree sculpture from Sanford Werfel Studios, hand carved and signed by artist Richard Teller. The solid bronze grove of trees will be on permanent display in the lobby near the entrance to the Sam and Mary Haskell Theatre. Three mighty tree trunks support full foliage honoring supporters of the Arts in Oxford. The center trunk represents the Muse of Music and features Gertrude C. Ford rising from the roots with her violin; a rose lies at her feet. The other two trunks hold figures representing the Muses of Drama and Dance. The trees have 750 donor-recognition leaves in engraver’s brass gold. Nestled among the leaves are various size boughs and on the ground, golden acorns complete the grove ensuring future trees.

Celebrating the Arts Capital Campaign

☐ Yes, I want to help secure the future of the Arts in Oxford!

Name(s): ____________________________________________________________
Address: ____________________________________________________________
City/State/ZIP: ______________________________________________________
Preferred Phone: _____________________________________________________
Email: _______________________________________________________________

I would like to be included on the Celebrating the Arts Tree Sculpture with my gift of:

☐ qty $30,000 for a Bough
☐ qty $25,000 for a Bough
☐ qty $20,000 for a Bough
☐ qty $10,000 for an Acorn
☐ qty $1,000 for a Leaf

☐ My check is enclosed, payable to the University of Mississippi Foundation.

Please charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX

Account number ______________________________________________________
Exp. Date _________________ CVC ________

Name (as it appears on card) ___________________________________________

Signature __________________________________________________________

You may also make your donation online at www.fordcenter.org/celebrate

Additional payment options are available online.

BOUGH
For a gift of $20,000-$30,000, the donor receives a sculpted bough with an engraved plate for personalization. The boughs vary in size and will be individually customized. (Only 8 available.)

GOLDEN ACORN
For a gift of $10,000, the donor receives a sculpted acorn with an engraved plate for personalization. (Only 10 available.)

LEAF
For a gift of $1,000, the donor receives an engraved leaf-shaped plate for personalization. A donor may make multiple gifts for a cluster of leaves.

As an actress and singer, I find my strength in the Arts! We never know what young minds are being inspired or hearts being touched through a performance. And that is why I’m thrilled to be a part of building an Endowment that will support and protect the ability to present the highest quality programming at the Ford Center and continue a legacy of enriching the cultural environment of our students, community and state!”

- Mary Donnelly Haskell, University of Mississippi Alumna

Celebrating the Arts and Honor Friends and Family

Giving Levels and Donor Recognition

When we receive your gift, we will send you a form with instructions for personalizing your plate.

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YOU are the future of the arts in Oxford

A gift of $100,000 from the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation is being celebrated with the naming of the sculpture’s main tree trunk. The adjacent two trunks are being named to honor the support of Mary and Sam Haskell and Nancye Starnes, who each gave $50,000.

- Mary Donnelly Haskell, University of Mississippi Alumna