



Missouri River Cultural Conservancy Background

The Central Missouri River region, blessed with natural treasures such as beautiful landscapes, fertile lands, and abundant clean water, provides an inspirational setting for its inhabitants. The people of the area, the music they make, and the art they create exemplify a cultural identity unique to the region.

MoRivCC exists to document, archive, and make available to the wider world and future generations the tangible expressions of a regional culture that would otherwise be lost. MoRivCC was the brainchild of Jerome Wheeler and Mike Cooper. Both were inspired by the creativity and generosity of our local artists, especially the singer/songwriters. Jerome was considered by many in our community a “local treasure,” a songwriter, singer, poet, and playwright with a national reputation.

As it turned out, because the fledgling organization had no resources and had to rely on borrowed equipment to capture performances, MoRivCC was unable to record Jerome's remarkable work before he died.

Sadly, his was not the only such loss to the community. In fairly short order the Mid-Missouri region also lost the opportunity to record the creative genius of other local icons, including Lyle Harris, one of the area's finest jazz guitarists; bassist and singer Forrest Rose; singer/songwriter Ken Shepard, and others. Since then, we have continued to lose other local treasures, but in some cases, MoRivCC had recorded them performing their original works. The road to preserving the history and flavor of artistic expressions of our region has begun.

Much work remains to be done to fully capture, preserve and present the culture of this part of America. MoRivCC still uses borrowed equipment for part of its video recording. The time has come to ask the community to step up to the challenge of helping us broaden the scope of our work, improve its quality, preserve it responsibly, and make captured performances easily available to the public and to historians.

Documenting and preserving songs and musical performances is only part of the scope of our mission. To gain a complete archive of the arts of our community, we also need to document dance, writing, photography, painting, any and all of the arts that form and express our identity as citizens of the Mid-Missouri region.

We need your help. Please consider partnering with MoRivCC by supporting our mission with one-time or ongoing donations or grants. Thank you.