



Mississippi Children's Museum to Host Bicentennial Arts Competition

Happy Birthday Mississippi: Celebrating Together Our Past, Present, & Future
in partnership with



Mississippi Children's Museum to Host Bicentennial Arts Competition in Partnership with Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Governor Phil Bryant and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History

MEDIA CONTACT: Mary Alex Thigpen, Director of Marketing Mississippi Children's Museum maryalex@mcm.ms; 601-709-8354

Jackson, Miss. (September 2, 2017) This fall, the Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) will be joining in celebrating the state's 200th birthday with its own series of events, including one specifically aimed at providing an opportunity for children to reflect on, and celebrate the past, present and future of Mississippi through the arts. MCM has partnered with the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE), the Office of Governor Phil Bryant and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to solicit a call for submissions from K-12 students in the areas of visual arts, music and poetry. MDAH will be providing online historical resources for participating students to use in their research and inspiration. These submissions will be judged by a panel of community experts and winners will be announced at a celebration on November 11, 2017 at MCM.

MCM Director of Education and Programs Jana Perry, who developed the event and facilitated these partnerships, notes, "Mississippi is known for its artists, and it is only fitting that the Mississippi Children's Museum and our partners work together to spark the creative ideas of up and coming artists in our K-12 schools. The arts help children cultivate their voice at a young age, and children of all ages should be given the opportunity to share their voice. This arts competition will give us a glimpse into how our children view the past, present, and future of Mississippi."

Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education, said the MDE supports opportunities for students to participate in the arts as part of a well-rounded education. Wright said on the competition, "Mississippi is fortunate to have such a rich history in the arts and our schools are filled with talented students who deserve this chance to showcase their immense talents. I encourage students to submit their work for consideration and well-deserved recognition."

Winners in each category will receive state-wide recognition and a variety of prizes from each partner organization. This includes dinner at the Governor's Mansion and a tour of the new Mississippi Civil Rights Museum and Museum of Mississippi History. Students, educators or families interested in the competition can learn more by visiting mschildrensmuseum.org/events/bicentennial where they can find guidelines, prompts and nomination forms.

About the Mississippi Children's Museum

The Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides unparalleled experiences that ignite a thirst for discovery, knowledge, and learning in all children. MCM is dedicated to inspiring Mississippi's children from all backgrounds to discover and achieve their potential. The museum features 40,000 square feet of exhibit space designed around five primary initiatives: Literacy, STEM, Health and Nutrition, Cultural Arts, and Mississippi History. The museum's exhibits, programs, and outreach opportunities provide engaging, explorative, hands-on educational activities for children of all ages. To learn more about MCM visit www.mschildrensmuseum.org.

About the Office of Governor Phil Bryant

Phil Bryant was sworn in for his second term as Mississippi's 64th governor on January 12, 2016. Before becoming the state's chief executive, Bryant was lieutenant governor from 2008-2011. He also served as state auditor and represented his legislative district in the Mississippi House of Representatives for five years. The Moorhead native earned an associate's degree in criminal justice from Hinds Community College and completed his bachelor's degree at the University of Southern Mississippi. He holds a master's degree in political science from Mississippi College, and before assuming his role as governor, Bryant served as an adjunct professor of government there. Gov. Bryant began his career as a deputy sheriff in Hinds County and later worked as an insurance investigator before being elected to the House of Representatives in 1991. In 1996, then Gov. Kirk Fordice appointed him state auditor, a position he was re-elected to in 1999 and 2003. As governor, Phil Bryant has led Mississippi in implementing public education reforms, promoting economic development and building a competitive business climate that attracts major employers like Yokohama Tire Corporation and Continental Tire. Under Gov. Bryant's administration, over 27,500 jobs have been announced along with \$5.19 billion in new corporate investments. Gov. Bryant and his wife, First Lady of Mississippi Deborah Bryant, have two adult children, Katie Bryant Snell and Patrick Bryant, and are active members of St. Marks United Methodist Church in Brandon.

About the Mississippi Department of Education

The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) provides resources and technical support to Mississippi's public-school system. The department also functions as a resource for federal education requirements and funding. The Mississippi Board of Education appoints the State Superintendent of Education, sets public education policy and oversees the MDE. As the administrative arm of the Board, MDE is responsible for implementing state and federal education laws, disbursing state and federal funds, holding schools and districts accountable for performance and licensing all educators.

About the Mississippi Department of Archives and History

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History was founded in 1902. A comprehensive historical agency, the department collects, preserves, and provides access to the archival resources of the state, administers museums and historic sites, and oversees statewide programs for historic preservation, government records management, and publications. The department is headquartered in [William F. Winter Archives and History Building](#). The department oversees the [Eudora Welty House](#), [Manship House Museum](#), and [Old Capitol Museum](#) in Jackson; the [Grand Village of the Natchez Indians](#) in Natchez; [Historic Jefferson College](#) in Washington, Windsor Ruins near Port Gibson, and [Winterville Mounds](#) in Greenville. The department is also opening the [Museum of Mississippi History](#) and [Mississippi Civil Rights Museum on December 9, 2017](#).

###