



MISSISSIPPI

TOURISM ASSOCIATION

MTA EXECUTIVE BOARD

Media Contact: Danielle Morgan, Executive Director
dmorgan@mstourism.com • Cell: 601-720-2245



Dr. Rickey Thigpen
President
Visit Jackson

MISSISSIPPI TOURISM ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2024-2025 EXECUTIVE BOARD LEADERSHIP

(Jackson, Miss.) - The Mississippi Tourism Association (MTA), the state's voice of tourism for over 35 years, is pleased to announce its elected board of officers for 2024-2025.



Laura Beth Strickland
President Elect
Visit Vicksburg

- Dr. Rickey Thigpen, President & CEO - Visit Jackson: MTA President
- Laura Beth Strickland, Executive Director - Visit Vicksburg: President Elect
- Kurt Allen, President & CEO – Mississippi Aquarium: Vice President
- Paige Hunt, Director of Tourism – Visit Starkville: Secretary/Treasurer
- Christy Burns, Executive Director - Visit Corinth: MTA President

In addition to executive board leadership, the MTA Board of Directors is comprised of three members from five regions throughout the state, as well as three at-large positions.



Kurt Allen
Vice President
Mississippi Aquarium

President Dr. Rickey Thigpen said, "Tourism is a crucial economic driver in Mississippi, weaving together the state's cultural heritage, natural beauty, and hospitality to create a tapestry of experiences that captivate and enrich visitors from around the world. As the President of the Mississippi Tourism Association, I am excited to continue a tradition of excellence and economic vitality for our great state. Mississippi Tourism is proud to boast that it is the state's fourth-largest employer, generating \$7.5 billion in visitor spending in 2023. Last year, this activity saved each Mississippi household \$663 in taxes while providing approximately 105,000 jobs for Mississippians. The Mississippi Tourism industry is committed to utilizing collective ambition as its strategy resulting in an enhanced quality of life for our citizens and a sense of place for visitors."



Paige Hunt
Secretary/Treasurer
Visit Starkville

"Tourism is a vital multi-billion-dollar industry for Mississippi, which reflects the dedication of our tourism leaders and the strategic vision of state and local officials who have committed to investing in tourism growth," said Danielle Morgan, MTA Executive Director. Our members have elected strong and capable leaders who will guide our association in revitalizing and expanding tourism across all sectors. The Mississippi Tourism Association benefits greatly from the commitment and expertise of our volunteer leaders, whose contributions are essential to our ongoing success and the future of tourism in our state. With this incredible team, we are well-positioned to drive our organization and Mississippi tourism forward."

###



Christy Burns
Past President
Visit Corinth

The voice of tourism, the Mississippi Tourism Association is a membership organization whose mission is to unite all sectors of the tourism industry through advocacy, promotion and education. MTA's vision is to transform Mississippi's economy through increased visitor spending and overall travel industry growth. For more than 30 years, MTA has led the Mississippi's tourism education and advocacy efforts. Membership and organization details can be found at www.mstourism.com

IMAGE DOWNLOADS:

Download photo of Rickey Thigpen [here](#)

Download photo of Laura Beth Strickland [here](#)

Download photo of Kurt Allen [here](#)

Download photo of Paige Hunt [here](#)

Download photo of Christy Burns [here](#)

Download photo of Executive Board [here](#)