



# Mississippi Children's Museum Receives Funding for New Wonder of Wellness Program

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## MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

### MEDIA CONTACT

**Susan Branson**

**Director of External  
Affairs**

sbranson@mcm.ms  
P: 601.709.8354

### Mississippi Children's Museum awarded grant from Institute of Museum and Library Services

*\$147,500 given to fund a new Wonder of Wellness program for children and families to improve health outcomes in Mississippi*

**Jackson, Miss.** (September 4, 2018) - The Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) has been awarded a \$147,500 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to design a new Wonder of Wellness program for children and their caregivers.

Over the course of two years, MCM will host planning meetings with community partners from medical, social, and emotional health fields and childhood development organizations to create a new program that increases health education for children in Jackson and develop a replicable curriculum for other communities.

Only 12 organizations were selected to receive a grant from IMLS as part of its Community Catalyst initiative. "As centers of learning and catalysts of community change, libraries and museums connect people with programs, services, collections, information, and new ideas in the arts, sciences, and humanities. They serve as vital spaces where people can connect with each other," said IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew. "IMLS is proud to support their work through our grant-making as they inform and inspire all in their communities."

"The Wonder of Wellness program is designed to teach children and their caregivers about the impact that physical activity, healthy eating, and even emotional health can have on their bodies. MCM will work with community partners to create a brand-new health program it can offer to children in Jackson and across the state," shared Monique Ealey, MCM's director of programs and education.

### **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, STEAM, Health and Nutrition, Cultural Arts and Mississippi Heritage. 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](http://www.mschildrensmuseum.org).

### **About IMLS**

*The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's approximately 120,000 libraries and 35,000 museums and related organizations. The agency's mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Its grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit [www.imls.gov](http://www.imls.gov) and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.*



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