



Mississippi Children's Museum Names Winners of Bicentennial Arts Competition

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



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

Jackson, Miss. (November 11, 2017) This fall, the Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) joined 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 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. The 160 submissions were judged by a panel of community experts.

<p>K-6 Poetry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honorable Mention, Spann student Mary Grace Latham • 3rd Place, Lamar Elementary student, Addyson Warden • 2nd Place, Jackson Academy student, Alex Guild • 1st Place, St. Richard's Catholic School student, Peggy Steckler 	<p>Grades 6-8 Visual Arts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honorable Mention, Jackson Academy student, Mya Coins • Honorable Mention, Madison Middle student, Nicolas Lafleur • 3rd Place, Madison Middle student, Shonasia Robinson • 2nd Place, Madison Middle student, Parker Garrett • 1st Place, Jackson Academy student, Lucy Allen
<p>K-5 Visual Arts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd Place, St. Andrew's Episcopal School student, Sarah Kate Crowder • 2nd Place, St. Andrew's Episcopal School student, Riley Thurmon • 1st Place, St. Anthony's Catholic School student, Ella Abide • 1st Place, St. Richard's Catholic School student, Steele Davis 	<p>Grades 9- 12 Visual Arts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honorable Mention, Forest Hill High School student, Moneashia Billups • Honorable Mention, Forest Hill High School student, Andrew Gibson • Honorable Mention, Madison Ridgeland Academy student, Anna Marie Jones • 3rd Place, Forest Hill High School student, Kevin Currie • 2nd Place, Forest Hill High School student, Brittany Bradley • 1st Place, Forest Hill High School student, Kadeeshia Johnson

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. 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](#).

###