During our November board meeting, I had all but adjourned when my own voice came over the loud speakers. I turned around and saw myself on the projector screen in a video totally unfamiliar to me. In that moment, my staff and board surprised me with a reminder that January marked my ten-year anniversary with the museum. For the first time, possibly ever, my staff had kept a secret from me!

Although we opened in 2010, the notion of the Mississippi Children’s Museum began much earlier. In 1994, the idea of the museum was born and in 2003, the Mississippi Children’s Museum became a signature project of the Junior League of Jackson.

After our meeting, I thought back on the past 13 years and all of the people who have played a critically important role in supporting and advocating for the mission of MCM. Our loyal members, generous donors, MCM Partners, governing board, dedicated staff, and gracious volunteers have all worked tirelessly to give the children of Mississippi the safe, beautiful, and magical place they deserve. MCM would not be able to serve these children, families, and educators in such an expansive and meaningful way, were it not for all of you. I am truly inspired each day by the passion, creativity, generosity, and joy each member of our community provides to this special place. If the past ten years are any indication as to what the next ten will bring, we’re all in for another decade of some serious fun!

Susan Garrard, Mississippi Children’s Museum President/CEO
At the Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM), we take fun seriously! We know fun is important to children’s growth and development—enabling them to imagine, to learn, and to be productive, creative, and happy. That’s why we work each and every day to ensure Mississippi’s children have access to a magical, innovative, and safe place to learn through play. We want children from all backgrounds to discover and achieve their potential, and we believe fun is a crucial part of a child’s life. One of the groups most integral to our ability to do this work are the MCM Partners. MCM Partners is a volunteer organization with members throughout the state, committed to promoting and financially supporting MCM. MCM Partners plan and host MCM’s signature fundraisers, volunteer during museum programs and special events, and increase awareness of MCM. Last year, MCM Partners worked tirelessly to raise almost $200,000 for the museum!

Two nights each year, MCM Partners opens the museum just for grown-ups! One of those events is Ignite the Night, when adults get to have some fun of their own while helping to fund the mission and outreach efforts of the museum. This year, co-chairs Crisler Boone and Susan Floyd have put together a celebration set to top the charts! On February 17, 2018, MCM Partners will be celebrating “The Birthplace of America’s Music” for Ignite the Night: Mississippi Music. Mississippi is home to blues greats like B.B. King, country music stars like Jimmie Rodgers, hip-hop legends like David Banner, and of course the king of rock-n-roll, Elvis Presley, along with countless others. Across all genres, so many of history’s most influential musicians have called this state their home. Whether you’re a diehard blues fan, rock-n-roll junkie, country line dancer, have uptown funk or a gospel soul, this evening is sure to bring you a whole new level of appreciation for the state that gave rise to musicians known and loved around the world! Join us as we take a journey down the Mississippi Blues Trail, and maybe even catch a photo with the King himself! We hope you’ll join us in dancing the night away for this epic tribute to the creative and inspiring musicians of our state, all the while, supporting the mission and work of the museum.
MCM Partners | Crisler Boone & Susan Floyd

MCM Partners are some of the most dedicated and loyal supporters of the museum. Through their collective financial and fundraising commitment, this group provides critical support for the museum’s operations, including meeting the ongoing needs of our exhibits and programs. Additionally, MCM Partners provide essential volunteer assistance to the museum throughout the year. Crisler Boone and Susan Floyd are serving this year on the MCM Partners Board as the co-chairs of one of MCM Partners’ signature events, Ignite the Night: Mississippi Music.

Susan Floyd works as Senior Counsel (Environmental) for Entergy Services, Inc. She received her J.D. from Mississippi College School of Law, completed her undergraduate degree at Sewanee: The University of the South, and her Masters of Education in Gifted Studies at Mississippi University for Women. Floyd has been recognized in “Chambers USA – America’s Leading Lawyers for Business” and Mid-South Super Lawyers, and in 2014, was named one of “Mississippi’s 50 Leading Business Women” by the Mississippi Business Journal. This is her third year serving on the program committee for Ignite the Night and her first year on the MCM Partners Board.

Crisler Moffat Boone grew up in Jackson and graduated from Millsaps College. Boone was a member of the Leadership Jackson Class of 1997, served on the Board of the Junior League of Jackson and was President in 2009-2010. As President-Elect of the Junior League of Jackson, Boone also sat on the board of MCM. Boone has been named one of the “Mississippi’s 50 Leading Business Women” and was in the Top 10 in 2009. She received the Pat Yarborough Volunteer of the Year Award from Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership in 2015, and currently works in Treasury Management at Renasant Bank. She also has her own wedding planning and consulting business.

Commenting on her involvement with Ignite the Night, Boone says, “The opportunity to be connected to MCM through Ignite the Night was something I didn’t want to pass up. The success of MCM would not be possible without the support of donors who participate with gifts of all sizes, from those that have named exhibits and spaces at the museum, to those that attend fun events like Ignite the Night. As a ‘fun girl’ at heart, I cannot wait for the culmination of our work on Ignite the Night. The theme, Mississippi Music, reflects that we are proud of our state and the musical talent it has produced over the years. Don’t miss this chance to boogie to the best of what Mississippi has to offer!”

MCM Members | The Mukoro Family

For the Mukoro family, MCM has provided a special place to watch their daughter, Blair, learn, grow, play, and explore. Christina and Quincy Mukoro decided to become members after their very first visit. “We visited MCM shortly after Blair’s first birthday. She had such a blast exploring the museum and playing with everything! We knew we would be visiting again, and thought it would be more economical to become members,” said Christina.

Since joining, the Mukoro family has visited many times, and Blair’s interests have expanded to include driving the Nissan Altima in the World at Work gallery, cooking in Little Cook’s Kitchen, and shopping in the Farmer’s Truck in the Healthy Fun gallery.

The Mukoro family were initially worried that because of Blair’s age, she would be limited in the things she could engage with, noting, “We were a little concerned at first that Blair was too small to enjoy the museum, but we quickly found that there are activities and exhibits that appeal to younger kids.” Not only does Blair get to engage with the activities and exhibits, but as a member of MCM, she has a chance to build friendships with other frequent visitors. “Being an only child, Blair also gets to meet and play with other kids at the museum,” says Christina.

For member families like the Mukoros, an MCM membership offers special events, exciting programs, and a special place to return to for years to come. “As she gets older, we are sure her interests will change, and there will be new things to explore like art classes and summer camp. We have a positive experience every time we visit.”
Nissan launched automobile manufacturing in Mississippi with the opening of their Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant in May 2003. Today, Nissan Canton is the second largest employer in the state, with 6,400 employees. Some may perceive the plant’s only aim as manufacturing cars—of which they can produce up to 450,000 each year! However, Nissan’s mission extends far beyond the production of vehicles. Nissan is focused on reaching and impacting children in Mississippi—the future workforce of our state. To do this, they have made a number of strategic investments with MCM to expand opportunities for children to engage with science and technology and see all the possibilities Mississippi can provide for their future careers.

Nissan began their partnership with MCM in 2005 and has continued to support us ever since. In 2010, Nissan donated a new Nissan Altima in our World at Work gallery, which quickly became one of the most popular exhibit pieces in our museum, so popular that it was replaced in 2016. Each day, children’s hearts race with excitement as they change tires, fill up the tank with gas, peer inside the engine and get behind the wheel of the Altina. Nissan has given children and their parents an experience that is tangible, memorable, and reflects some of the amazing work being done right here in Mississippi!

This year, Nissan provided support for the Mississippi Science Fest. The mission of the 2017 Mississippi Science Fest was to promote awareness of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education and workforce development within the Magnolia State. The result was an outstanding event that exposed visitors to real STEM industries and opportunities in Mississippi and saw more than 4,000 visitors, a 400% increase from the festival held at MCM in 2016.

Nissan has also provided support for the MCM Bicentennial Celebration and Storytelling Festival. Both of these events evoke pride and admiration for the assets of our state—particularly for our legacy of arts and culture. Mississippi has many things that deserve admiration and recognition, and Nissan and MCM together believe providing the opportunity for children to recognize those assets from our past and how they shape our future is invaluable.

“The Mississippi Children’s Museum offers the state’s youth a place to have fun while also sparking curiosity about the world around them,” said Steve Marsh, Vice President of Manufacturing, Nissan Canton. “We are proud to be long-standing supporters of the museum as they endeavor to make a positive impact in our local community.” We are truly grateful to Nissan for their enduring support and partnership and are excited to celebrate them at our annual Spark Society dinner where we honor our most steadfast partners throughout the year.

MCM is not only dedicated to creating a space that is playful and fun, but also one that serves an educational purpose. All exhibits and programs at MCM are deeply rooted in research-based pedagogy, and a commitment to inquiry-based, informal learning opportunities. In 2013, to help us remain focused on our educational mission, MCM established the MCM Educator Advisory Board, a diverse representation of educators, specialists, administrators, and advocates that provide expert opinions and insight to the work and planning of MCM’s Education and Programs staff.

This group meets on a quarterly basis to discuss programs and developments at the museum, as well as to share updates in statewide educational initiatives and curriculum. This group not only serves as a sounding board for ideas and plans for MCM, but for all relevant members and their work in improving educational opportunities for children in Mississippi. Often, these meetings translate into tangible opportunities for MCM to lead or participate in new and innovative ways that allow us to better support and advocate for Mississippi children. Dr. Gail Hammond, a long-time member of the advisory board reflects her role on the board, saying, “It is gratifying to work with dedicated, experienced educators and highly-skilled museum personnel as we make suggestions regarding the pedagogy of this world-class children’s museum. A visitor to MCM is immersed in color, activities, excitement, and wonder. This is intentional. Much research and planning went into the implementation of an environment that is both educational and fun. Interactive exhibits abound that attract a child’s attention, challenge the mind, and develop higher-order thinking skills. Come for a visit, stay for an adventure!”

MCM is grateful for the expertise that this board brings to our museum and for the opportunity to convene a group of great minds and dedicated hearts as we all work together to provide opportunities for the children of Mississippi.

Current members include:

- Rev. Dr. Martha Alexander, Operation Shoestring
- Mr. Michael Carmack, Barksdale Reading Institute
- Mr. Limeul Eubanks, MS Department of Education
- Dr. Cathy Gaston, Friends of Children’s of Mississippi
- Dr. Gail Hammond, Retired Gifted Teacher
- Mrs. Gwendolyn Pumell, Math Consultant
- Dr. Ellen Ruffin, Curator of deGrummond Children’s Collection
- Dr. London Thompson, Retired JPS Teacher
- Mrs. Rhoda Yoder, Principal of Casey Elementary
- Mrs. Nicole Menotti, Principal of Spann Elementary
- Mrs. Debbie Renfroe, Excel by 5
- Mrs. Win Maxey Shumate, Meridian Community College

MCM DONOR | NISSAN

MCM EDUCATOR ADVISORY BOARD
MCM JOURNEY TO THE NORTH POLE DESIGN TEAM

This winter, MCM opened a brand-new one-of-a-kind holiday exhibit, Journey to the North Pole, as a place for children and their caregivers to learn, explore, and create lasting memories together. This exhibit was made possible through the collaboration between MCM, two local creative businesses, and one nationally-recognized exhibit fabricator! The design and exhibits team at MCM partnered with Davaine Lighting and A Plus Creative & Signs of Jackson, Mississippi and ADEX International Exhibit Fabrication of Cincinnati, Ohio, to create a holiday experience unlike any other provided for children and families in Mississippi.

Drawing inspiration from traditional holiday literature, Journey to the North Pole transformed 1,800 square feet of MCM into a magical winter village of twinkling lights and train cars. Only a few feet from the entrance into the exhibit, the 45-foot Snowflake Slide was nestled between the railings of the center staircase and saw thousands of children slide down its snowy white mounds throughout the holiday season.

Former MCM Assistant Director of Exhibits, Samantha King, and MCM Assistant Director of Advertising and Design, Marion Steckler, laid out the creative framework and design plan for the exhibit before reaching out to a talented group of businesses to make this exhibit a reality. Mike Murphy of ADEX International worked with MCM in fabricating exhibits in both the World at Work and Exploring Mississippi galleries. For Journey to the North Pole, Murphy coordinated the planning, fabrication, and installation of the Snowflake Slide, Santa’s Steam Engine, and the expansive train table in the Gertrude C. Ford Exhibition Hall.

In addition to creating the exhibit’s signs, A Plus Creative and Signs designed additional components that helped bring the Journey to the North Pole exhibit space to life, including a snow covered holiday cottage, an 8-foot clock tower, and snowbanks that surrounding the entire room. Owner Scott Allen even hand illustrated the snow clouds and full moon that were suspended from the ceiling to create a magical nighttime atmosphere. To complete the snowy nighttime setting, Davaine Lighting built and installed twinkling curtains that lined the exhibition hall, a lighting treatment they created for this project. Davaine Lighting also installed a series of projected snowflakes that danced across the atrium floor, and special lighting for the Snowflake Slide.

The end result was a breathtaking new experience for families in Mississippi and a testament to the creativity, determination, and hard work of all four organizations. MCM is thrilled to have such incredible partners who are generous with their time and resources. It is rewarding to collaborate on innovative and imaginative projects with our team for the children of Mississippi to create holiday memories with their families!

MCM STAFF | SUSAN BRANSON

Susan Branson has only been part of the MCM family since July of 2017, but it feels as though she’s been here for years! Before joining the museum, Branson worked as an assistant teacher in Madison County Schools and as a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) president. She also founded the Spina Bifida Association of Mississippi where she was a volunteer for five years. Additionally, while a stay-at-home mother to her five children, Branson created her own sewing business. In November of 2017, after having been at the museum for only four months, Branson was named MCM’s Employee of the Quarter, a testament to her hard work!

Branson joined the museum as the Volunteer & Camp Coordinator, where she was responsible for the recruitment, retention, and training of all MCM volunteers, as well as the execution of summer camp. When asked what drew her to the position, Branson said, “In every activity my own children participated in, I found myself becoming involved as a volunteer. Coordinating volunteers was something I did while on the PTO, working with the Spina Bifida Association, various swim teams, and at church. I was excited about the opportunity to be a part of a vibrant volunteer program.”

Branson’s warmth, positivity, ingenuity, and desire to always lend a helping hand are only a couple of the elements that make her an invaluable asset to MCM and friend to all she meets. It’s these qualities and a desire for helping children across the state that has led Branson to her new role as Director of External Affairs for MCM in January 2018.
Since its inception, MCM has been indebted to the opinions, connections, and direction of our governing board. This November, we were thrilled to welcome two new members to this incredible group of leaders. Lisa Ann Didion and Maggi Lampton both joined our board and brought with them a wealth of experience and knowledge to help support the strategic course of MCM and its mission to serve the children of Mississippi.

Dr. Lisa Didion and her husband have lived in Jackson with their four children since 2011. Much of Dr. Didion's life and work has been dedicated to the well-being of children. “My passions in life revolve around children; first as a mother of four, but also as a pediatrician,” Didion explains. “I am a firm believer in mentorship and providing opportunity to all in preparation for our future. The children in our lives and community are our most important investment.” As the Director of the Office of Patient Experience at UMMC, she brings an expert’s eye towards supporting childhood health and wellness to our board of directors.

“The Mississippi Children’s Museum has always been a wonderful advocate for the health of our children through their educational programs and museum exhibits, and I couldn’t be happier to be part of this team,” she says.

Maggi Lampton also joined our board in the fall. Lampton grew up a self-described “military brat,” and had the opportunity to live and volunteer in a variety of places. After moving to Mississippi, Lampton volunteered with the Junior League of Jackson where she was part of the group first responsible for researching a children’s museum. She has had extensive experience with groups such as the Cancer League, Covenant Presbyterian Church, and even chaired the American Heart Association Metro Jackson Heart Ball. “I truly believe the children of Mississippi deserve a museum that is geared to them,” Lampton says. In addition to serving on the MCM board of directors, she enjoys bringing her four grandchildren to MCM.

William Meck grew up watching his parents volunteer at MCM when it was in its infancy. His mother helped organize the initial ‘Bricks For Kids’ campaign and his father assisted with data entry on the project. So when William was looking for a drop-off location for his Eagle Scout project, City Socks, partnering with MCM was a natural fit.

Meck originally set out to find a way to provide tangible support for visitors of Gateway Rescue Mission, a benevolent organization he had seen his parents volunteer with for many years. Meck, a 9th grade student at Jackson Academy, chose to collect socks after learning that they are a high-demand item for the organization. Socks are the number one item needed by homeless people because they have to walk everywhere they go. Gateway is always in need of new socks, he explained. With a variety of programs serving homeless men and women in Jackson, he chose Gateway Rescue Mission as the ideal partner for his project.

“We had been looking for Eagle Scout projects, and I wanted to find something that would really help people,” Meck says about conducting the City Socks project. He says Gateway Rescue Mission is open to collections of many items because they are frequently giving socks, toothbrushes, and other personal care items to those in need. His original goal was to collect 1,000 pairs of new socks for either men or women, and he far exceeded his goal by collecting over 2,000 pairs of socks! MCM was honored to serve as a gathering spot for Meck’s City Socks project.

In addition to City Socks, MCM has been the site of many Eagle Scout projects, including the installation of a ‘Little Free Library,’ the creation of a robotics table, and multiple beautification projects around the museum property.
MCM SPRING 2018 CALENDAR

Please note that these dates and events are subject to change. Visit www.mschildrensmuseum.org for an up-to-date schedule.

FEB

Magnolia Book Awards
Vote for your favorite book in the atrium all month long!

Visiting Artist Workshop
Robert Chapman
Workshops @ 11:00 AM & 2:00 PM

Members-Only Pancake Breakfast
Come & Go: 9:00 - 11:00 AM

MAR

Dr. Seuss’ Silly Birthday Celebration
Come & Go: 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

NASA Day
Come & Go: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Visiting Artist Workshop
Kaitlin Mullins
Workshops @ 11:00 AM & 2:00 PM

APR

Museum Closed
Happy Easter from MCM!

Magic Monday
Museum is open 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Visiting Artist Workshop
Keri Horn
Workshops @ 11:00 AM & 2:00 PM

MAY

Question It? Discover It! Child Safety
Come & Go: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Visiting Artist Workshop
Susanna Ritz
Workshops @ 11:00 AM & 2:00 PM

Boy Scout Saturday
Chances to earn merit badges throughout the day!
Check our social media pages for daily updates on all things MCM!

/mississippichildrensmuseum  @mschildsmuseum  @mschildsmuseum  /mschildsmuseum

Saturday
10  Question It? Discover It! Endocrinology
Come & Go: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Saturday
17  Ignite the Night: Mississippi Music
7:00 - 11:00 PM

Monday
19  Magic Monday
Museum is open 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Monday
12  Magic Monday
Museum is open 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Saturday
24  Question It? Discover It! Doctors’ Day
Come & Go: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Saturday
31  Bunnies & Butterflies
Come & Go: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Wednesday
11  Magnolia Book Awards Winners Announced
Winners announced at the Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival in Hattiesburg April 11-13.

Saturday
21  Earth Day
Join us for special Earth Day programming in Outside the Lines!

Saturday
28  Question It? Discover It! Children’s Rehab
Come & Go: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Friday
25  Thomas & Friends™: Explore the Rails
Members-only Preview Party
5:30 - 7:00 PM

Saturday
26  Thomas & Friends™: Explore the Rails & Splash Pad Opening Day
open 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Tuesday
29  Blue Star begins
Military family discount available through September 2, 2018
In November, the Mississippi Children’s Museum-Meridian, held a special public press conference at the MSU Riley Center in historic downtown Meridian. There, it was announced that the site of MCM-Meridian would be 403 22nd Avenue! Currently the lot holds a vacated Sears department store building. This location will allow MCM-Meridian to welcome drivers and visitors to downtown Meridian as it will be positioned on one of the city’s main thoroughfares from the interstate. At the press conference, it was also announced that the Riley Foundation would be named a Conductor level sponsor, with a $4 million gift to the project, joining the Phil Hardin Foundation and the City of Meridian.

In November, the Mississippi Children’s Museum-Meridian, held a special public press conference at the MSU Riley Center in historic downtown Meridian. There, it was announced that the site of MCM-Meridian would be 403 22nd Avenue! Currently the lot holds a vacated Sears department store building. This location will allow MCM-Meridian to welcome drivers and visitors to downtown Meridian as it will be positioned on one of the city’s main thoroughfares from the interstate. At the press conference, it was also announced that the Riley Foundation would be named a Conductor level sponsor, with a $4 million gift to the project, joining the Phil Hardin Foundation and the City of Meridian.

MCM-Meridian has seen a swell of support from local business and community leaders in East Mississippi. In particular, three organizations have made significant investments in the project. With a grant for $3 million in May of 2016, MCM-Meridian became a signature project of the Phil Hardin Foundation. Executive Director Lloyd Gray reflected on their early commitment saying, ‘The Phil Hardin Foundation recognized early on that this project will have a tremendously positive impact for children across the socioeconomic spectrum in our community and region. We need to do all we can to stimulate and enhance learning for all children, but especially for those who otherwise wouldn’t have access to the type of enrichment experiences the children’s museum will provide. This investment is at the heart of the Hardin Foundation’s educational mission and purpose.’

In October of 2017, the Riley Foundation joined these two with a gift of $4 million, our largest single gift to date. The Riley Foundation President and Treasurer Marty Davidson spoke of their recent grant, ‘The mission of the Riley Foundation is to improve the quality of life in Lauderdale County. Today, the Riley Foundation is making a $4 million grant to the Mississippi Children’s Museum that will improve the quality of life for our children and grandchildren, for many generations to come.’ MCM-Meridian is thrilled and grateful for such significant support from leaders within the East Mississippi and Meridian communities.
The vision for MCM-Meridian is a brand-new, state-of-the-art 20,000 square foot facility with 9,500 square feet of exhibit space. Our team has envisioned a space that reflects Meridian and East Mississippi and will incorporate all five of MCM’s educational initiatives: literacy, health and nutrition, cultural arts, STEM, and Mississippi history. The three exhibit galleries will focus most directly on health and nutrition, literacy, and STEM. Aspects of cultural arts and East Mississippi history will be woven throughout.

MCM-Meridian has contracted with Wier Boerner Allin Architecture, a complete architecture, interior design, and planning services firm based in Jackson, Mississippi, to design the facility. Due to the strength of their staff and client relationships, Wier Boerner Allin has been able to successfully compete for several highly sought-after projects making its mark with projects such as Babalu, The Iron Horse Grill, the new Dudy Noble Field at Mississippi State University, and the firm’s own home at 2727 Old Canton Road in Jackson - among others.

Principal Jack Allin is the lead architect on the project. Allin is married to Meridian native Hailey Wile Allin, and together they have two children, making this project a special one for him personally. “It is an honor to be a part of this project,” says Allin. “Not only will the Mississippi Children’s Museum-Meridian serve as a vibrant gateway to downtown, it will also provide inspiration and enlightenment for the generations that come after us. The children of this community and this region will have a state-of-the-art place to learn and explore, right here in East Mississippi.”

Contributions and pledges to the Mississippi Children’s Museum-Meridian serve as a vibrant gateway to downtown, it will also provide inspiration and enlightenment for the generations that come after us. The children of this community and this region will have a state-of-the-art place to learn and explore, right here in East Mississippi.”

BUILDING CONCEPT
Contributors to the Mississippi Children’s Museum from June 01, 2016 - May 31, 2017

• denotes an in-kind donation

+ denotes a PlayBuild.Grow. donation

If you wish to change your recognition, please contact us at donate@mcm.ms.
On March 3, MCM will welcome families to the museum for a day full of fun characters, wacky science, and classic stories at Dr. Seuss’ Silly Birthday Celebration!

During the eighth annual celebration, families will be encouraged to play, read, and learn together through activities based on popular Dr. Seuss books. MCM’s Dr. Seuss’ Silly Birthday Celebration focuses on children’s literature and learning in a whimsical and exciting environment that features both reading and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Math) activities for children throughout the museum. There will also be readings of popular Dr. Seuss stories, meet and greets with beloved characters, and the opportunity for families to dress up in fantastical outfits highlighting your favorite books! MCM is committed to providing fun and educational programming for Mississippi’s children, and this unique event celebrates curiosity, imagination, and learning.

With literacy and STEAM as two of the museum’s primary initiatives, Dr. Seuss’ Silly Birthday Celebration inspires a love of reading, language, science, and mathematics. Using the world created by Dr. Seuss in more than 40 books as inspiration, children can participate in activities that focus not only on reading and science, but also teach children and caregivers about visual arts, theatre, and health and nutrition! Dr. Seuss’ Silly Birthday Celebration activities will be held from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Mississippi Children’s Museum.

MCM-Meridian and the MCM-Meridian Partners will host a local Dr. Seuss’ Silly Birthday Celebration from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Dumont Plaza in Downtown Meridian. This event encourages parents and caregivers to share the fun and exciting side of reading and science with their children through special readings, crafts, STEAM activities, cooking demonstrations, and more! MCM’s Dr. Seuss’ Silly Birthday Celebration is sponsored by Barksdale Reading Institute and Paul Moak Subaru.
BY THE NUMBERS
FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017
June 1, 2016-May 31, 2017

132,971*
MUSEUM GUESTS
*excludes facility rental and special event visitors

21,080
FIELD TRIP VISITORS

8,468
BIRTHDAY PARTIES

2,229
ACTIVE MEMBERSHIPS

418
VOLUNTEERS

6,848
VOLUNTEER HOURS

429
FIELD TRIPS

8,468
PARTY GUESTS

7,468
VISITORS PARTICIPATED IN A PROGRAM

43
MUSEUM RENTALS with 4,100 GUESTS

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES
- Program Services ........................................... 81%
- Management and General .............................. 14%
- Fundraising ....................................................... 5%

SOURCES OF REVENUE/SUPPORT
- Earned Revenue ..................................................... 55%
- Educational Programs/Sponsorships .......... 12%
- Donations & Grants ........................................ 28%
- Other Income ..................................................... 5%

The museum undergoes an annual audit by an independent audit firm. To date, all audits have received an unqualified opinion.
MCM • TO • GO
Have fun learning everywhere you go!

SWEET POTATO FROSTING

1. Roast 1 large sweet potato at 375° for 1 hour.
2. Let cool and add peeled potato with 12 ounces of dark or semi-sweet chocolate chips to a food processor.
3. Pulse to combine; the warm potatoes should melt the chocolate.
4. Stir until smooth. Spread onto a slice of bread or cake and enjoy!

DID YOU KNOW?

Sweet potatoes are a great source of vitamins A & C!

WORD SCRAMBLE!
Can you unscramble the following words?

NISPRG  
WLOERFS  
CARMH  
EUNSHSIN  
SEBE

DID YOU KNOW?

Before Spring was called Spring, it was called Lent in Old English. Starting in the 14th century, that time of year was called ‘springing time’—a reference to plants ‘springing’ from the ground. In the 15th century this got shortened to ‘spring-time,’ and then further shortened in the 16th century to just ‘spring.’

Spring is often associated with rebirth, renewal, and regrowth.

FARM BUREAU SPOTLIGHT
SPONSORED BY MISSISSIPPI FARM BUREAU
Join us every Friday @ 3:30 PM

WE TAKE FUN SERIOUSLY!
A signature project of the Junior League of Jackson
This project is partially funded through a grant by Visit Jackson.