



MISSISSIPPI
CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM

THE MCM PLAYBOOK

SUMMER 2017 • VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 2

GO BANANAS
WITH CURIOUS
GEORGE
.....
EXPRESS
YOURSELF
.....
HONORS &
AWARDS

Use
wind power
to move yard
art like windmills
and wind
chimes.



Climb into
the construction
trailer and design
a building.



Use pipes,
ramps, & funnels
to experiment with
physics and engineering
as you putt through
mini golf.



Curious George™ Let's Get Curious!

Sponsored by **3M**



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MCM WELCOMES EVERYONE'S FAVORITE MONKEY!

MAY 20-SEPT 10, 2017

Who swings through the trees, gets into mischief as fast as you please, found in cartoons and books galore, and is curious and curious some more? Why, go to the original source and welcome everyone's favorite monkey, of course! On May 20, 2017, *Curious George™: Let's Get Curious!* swings into MCM for the summer to bring this beloved character and his insatiable curiosity to life as children embark on fun, interactive math, science, and engineering-based adventures.

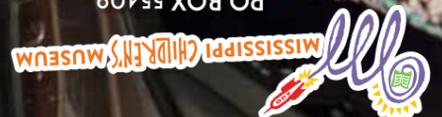
Based on the familiar characters in H.A. and Margret Rey's classic stories published by Houghton Mifflin, and inspired by the animated television series on PBS KIDS, this immersive exhibit recreates the neighborhood where Curious George lives with his friend, The Man with the Yellow Hat. Visitors will explore George's world as they operate wheels to help him climb a building, sort and weigh fruits and vegetables at the produce stand, climb the rocket from his space adventure, build a whirligig in the country, and visit the Museum within the Museum.

"Curious George's endless curiosity and boundless love of discovery beautifully illustrate the innate sense of wonder that children find in our everyday world. At 76 years-old, Curious George has been inspiring generations with his adventures, and we hope will inspire our visitors this summer to ask, explore, and, perhaps, answer some questions of their own," says Susan Garrard, MCM President and CEO.

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ADDRESS LINE 2
CITY, STATE ZIP CODE

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EXPRESS YOURSELF!

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ENCOURAGING INTEGRATIVE LEARNING

Mississippi has a creative culture that is as rich in its heritage as it is diverse in its many forms of expression. Mississippi has produced award-winning actors, writers, musicians, poets, playwrights, dancers, singers, painters, designers, puppeteers, and craftsmen who have garnered such accolades as Grammy, Emmy, Pulitzer, Tony, and Oscar awards, the National Medal of Arts, and even a Nobel Prize in Literature to name a few. As such, Mississippians have contributed significantly to the arts in America.

At MCM, we believe that the arts provide a meaningful context for understanding our world, examining challenges in new ways, and discovering how things work. MCM strives to incorporate the arts within all activities offered at the museum to encourage integrative learning. Our programs are designed to connect children and their self-directed exploration and practice of the arts with a wide range of arts experiences and artists from around the state and beyond. Programs and exhibits provide opportunities for children to create and view art performances, as well as to participate in material explorations while investigating a variety of authentic art tools, techniques, and processes.

As the birthplace of the King of Rock and Roll, the Father of Country Music, a certain beloved green frog, and the Mississippi Delta Blues, Mississippi has been a cradle for creativity and artistic innovation. At MCM, we want to foster and celebrate this tradition. By giving children the opportunity to participate in these experiences firsthand, we hope to spark their imagination and inspire their curiosity and creativity for a life-time.



READ MORE
ON THE NEXT
PAGES

EXPRESS YOURSELF!



Storytelling Festival & Visiting Artists

How do you tell a story or create an original piece of art? The participating artists in MCM's *Storytelling Festival* and *Visiting Artist* program hope to answer these questions through hands-on engagement that gives children an opportunity to try out new skills along with the freedom to experiment and discover the endless possibilities of their own creativity and imagination.

On January 21, 2017, the *Storytelling Festival* brought together a diverse group of artists to delve into the multitude of ways that stories are created, shaped, interpreted, and told. Mississippi School of the Arts Theater Instructor Dr. Robert Brooks, explored improvisation techniques and movement scenarios. Sarah Campbell, photographer and author, shared photography and story writing methods. Althea Jerome, award-winning music educator, led an interactive reading of *Jack and the Beanstalk* using musical instruments to create characters.

Directed by co-founder Erin Scheiwe Rockwell, Front Porch Dance performed a piece based on the Mary Austin poem, "Rathers." The dancers worked with children in groups to create movement stories of their own based on their interpretations of the poem which they subsequently incorporated into the original choreography to create an entirely new piece.

"We use bodies and space to create a picture. We use rhythm and timing to enhance the colors you see in that picture, and we use the dynamic energy and quality of movement to take that picture and bring it to life like film," says Rockwell. "We wanted them to work together to see how we, as dancers, work together to collaborate to build movement and story as we choreograph."

Children's author and illustrator, Chuck Galey showed how characters are developed through expression and action in his presentation, "The Illustrator as Storyteller." Galey, who also has participated as a longtime *Visiting Artist*, wants children to understand that art is as much about the process as it is about an end product.

"When children participate in the arts, they learn confidence, focus, perseverance, and collaboration. The Mississippi Children's Museum creates these opportunities for children by bringing them face-to-face with storytellers, painters, and musicians."

- Malcolm White, Mississippi Arts Commission Executive Director

"The illustrations you see in a storybook represent maybe only five percent of the work that actually takes place. It's like the very, teeny tip of an iceberg, which you see floating above the water. But then, there is this whole mass, below the water—that work—that you don't see," he says. "I want to illustrate for them—pun intended—the experimentation that goes into making art. A sketchbook is an artist's laboratory. It's your diary and place to visually explore your ideas and observations."

Galey and Rockwell both find inspiration in working with children. Galey notes, for him, it is children's limitless capacity for imagination that is part of why he chose children's book illustration as his particular medium. Rockwell sees benefits both for the children and for artists.

"In my opinion, it is very important for children to interact with professional artists. Their creativity rubs off on the artist which is integrated back into their art and therefore, into our society and vice-versa. The creativity of the artist rubs off on the children which they can continue to grow, nurture, and carry through their life as they explore new ideas and learn new things," she adds.

Grant support from the Mississippi Arts Commission, with funding, in part, from the National Endowment for the Arts, help make both the *Storytelling Festival* and *Visiting Artist* program at MCM possible.

"When children participate in the arts, they learn confidence, focus, perseverance, and collaboration. The Mississippi Children's Museum creates these opportunities for children by bringing them face-to-face with storytellers, painters, and musicians. The Mississippi Arts Commission is pleased to support the creative work they do and their ability to reach deep inside our Mississippi communities to celebrate learning through artistic exploration," says Malcolm White, Mississippi Arts Commission Executive Director.

Visiting Artists



Benjamin Morris • Poetry



Suzanna Ritz • 3D Sculptures



George Miles • Watercolors



Teresa Haygood • Bean Mosaics



Elaine Maisel • Interpretive Dance



Making Masters

Visitors can now dive deeper into the arts at MCM with a new daily program, *Making Masters*. This session-oriented program utilizes small class sizes to give children the opportunity to learn more about different artistic principles. "Making Masters gives us the opportunity to make connections with guests and to give each guest the attention they deserve," says Emily Simmons, MCM's Arts Educator. "We wanted to give children the one-on-one experience."

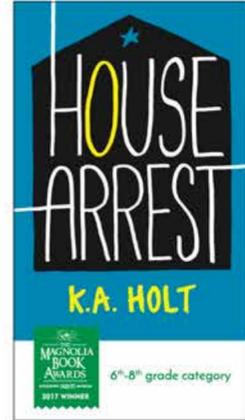
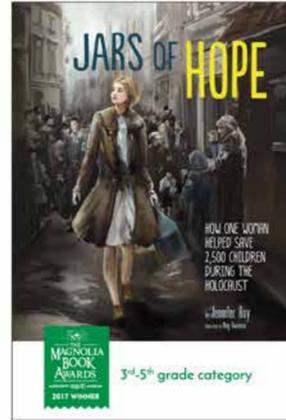
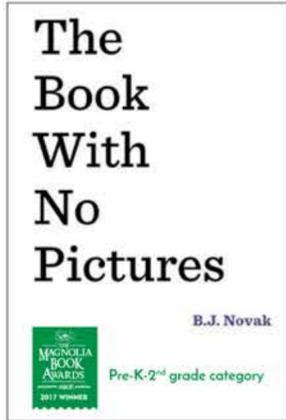
This weekday program has a different theme each week with session times listed outside of the *Outside the Lines* art room each day. These times change based on the needs and complexity of the project. "We get started all at once so we are on the same page," Simmons says about the new session times.

She says that because this program is in the afternoon, the projects often target older children who visit after school. "It is a longer session so you have to pay attention longer," she explains. "Some of the skills are a little bit more in-depth than our morning activities."

Making Masters can still be an all-ages program, however. "All of the activities we do in the art room can be made more difficult for a more advanced student or can be made easier for a less advanced student," Simmons notes.

In addition to this afternoon program, Simmons says there is a do-it-yourself style project each morning that focuses on family connections with easy-to-understand steps for younger guests. Both morning and afternoon projects typically relate to a shared theme.

Congratulations to the 2017 Magnolia Book Awards Winners



MCM was founded, in part, to address one of Mississippi's biggest challenges to childhood well-being which is literacy. Since opening, the museum has sought to improve children's literacy skills through our exhibits and educational programming. However, literacy isn't just about skills development. Encouraging a love of language, of reading, and of books is equally important. One of the ways that MCM does this is through the partnership of the *Magnolia Book Awards*.

The *Magnolia Book Awards* were established in 2010 to introduce Mississippi children to the best in current children's literature. The *Magnolia Book Awards* is a children's choice award—an award decided by the children themselves. Students from across Mississippi, in Pre-kindergarten through 12th Grade, are invited to vote for their favorite book among those nominated in four age categories.

Magnolia Book Awards nominees are works that have been published within two years of the nomination. The four age categories consist of Pre-K through 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade through 5th Grade, 6th Grade through 8th Grade, and 9th Grade through 12th Grade. Voting takes place each February and is

overseen by a designated individual (teacher, librarian, bookstore manager) at a participating site in Mississippi. The awards are then announced each April at the Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival at the University of Southern Mississippi.



"It has been so rewarding to engage students in our state with quality children's literature. Through the *Magnolia Book Awards*, we give students a voice and let them tell us the books they like best. Literacy is the foundation of all learning and if we can do something to make reading fun, it makes learning fun as well. And that's a win-win for everyone," says Venetia Oglesby, *Magnolia Book Awards* Executive Board Vice-President.

The Mississippi Children's Museum partners with the Mississippi Department of Education, Mississippi Library Association, Mississippi Library Commission, and Divisions of the University of Southern Mississippi, including: The School of Library and Information Science; Fay B. Kaigler Children's Book Festival; The School of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education; and The deGrummond Children's Literature Collection for the *Magnolia Book Awards*.

2018 NOMINATED BOOKS

Read each book in your grade category and vote for your favorite in February 2018!

PRE-K - 2ND GRADE

- Hammer and Nails* by Josh Bledsoe
- Good Trick, Walking Stick* by Sheri M. Bestor
- When Amelia Earhart Built a Roller Coaster* by Mark Weakland
- Charles Darwin's Around the World Adventure* by Jennifer Thermes
- Hannah and Sugar* by Kate Berube
- Around America to Win the Vote: Two Suffragists, a Kitten, and 10,000 Miles* by Mara Rockliff
- A Big Surprise for Little Card* by Charise Mericle Harper
- Memoirs of a Parrot* by Devin Scillian

Ferocious Fluffty: A Mighty Bite-y Class Pet by Erica S. Perl

Hey, That's My Monster! by Amanda Knoll

3RD - 5TH GRADE

- Bayou Magic* by Jewel Parker Rhodes
- Miracle Man: the Story of Jesus* by John Hendrix
- All Rise for the Honorable Perry T. Cook* by Leslie Connor
- The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown
- When Mischief Came to Town* by Katrina Nannestad
- The Book Scavenger* by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman
- Anything but Ordinary Addie* by Mara Rockliff

The Princess and the Warrior by Duncan Tonatiuh

The Evil Wizard Smallbone by Delia Sherman

Crenshaw by Katherine Applegate

6TH - 8TH GRADE

- Milestones of Flight: From Hot-air balloons to Space Ship One* by Tim Grove
- Sophie Quire and the Last Storyguard* by Jonathan Auxier
- Red's Planet* by Eddie Pittman
- Headstrong: 52 Women Who Changed Science—and the World* by Rachel Swaby
- Raymie Nightingale* by Kate DiCamillo

Hour of the Bees by Lindsay Eager

Cloud and Wallfish by Ann Nesbet

Pax by Sara Pennypacker

9TH - 12TH GRADE

- An Ember in the Ashes* by Sabaa Tahir
- Every Falling Star: the True Story of How I Survived and Escaped North Korea* by Sungji Lee
- Exit, Pursued by a Bear* by E. K. Johnston
- The Lie Tree* by Frances Hardinge
- Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys
- Unbecoming* by Jenny Downham

Planting the Seeds to Read



A partnership with the B. B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center in Indianola, Mississippi



In January, MCM's education team traveled to the B. B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center (BBKM) in Indianola, MS, for its *Planting the Seeds to Read* family literacy program, which brings literacy activities to participating families for seven weeks. The program treats families to dinner, provides activities for the children that make learning fun, and offers workshops with techniques parents and caregivers can use at home with their children to encourage reading. Twenty-five families from the Sunflower County Consolidated School District (SCCSD) were invited to join MCM staff members for the program, which is part of a larger project supported by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation.

Patti Reiss, MCM's Assistant Director of Programs, says the lessons offer a variety of learning experiences for participants, many of which include musical or dramatic expression, or allow children to learn by moving, talking, and listening. "This program has introduced its participants to new ways of learning," she says. "We have allowed them to use their imagination to communicate things they have learned from the start of the program to now."

Carolyn Williams, who attended the program with her two grandchildren, says that she can see the difference the program is making, both in their interest in reading, and in building social skills and making friends. "It's really helping them. I get to take out the time to come and be here with them and be a part of this," Williams says. "That's my favorite thing. I see how they can come in and meet new people. On top of meeting them, they get in and work together."

This program has allowed MCM to reach children in the Sunflower County Consolidated School District, which might not have been possible without the joint partnership. Malika Polk-Lee, BBKM Executive Director, says that creating a three-way partnership allowed both museums to include SCCSD in the project from the beginning. "The parents and school know us. They know if we do a program that it's going to be a quality experience, and it's going to give them the benefit that we said that it's going to give," Polk says. "You can tell by the attendance that the school system had a true buy-in to be sure that the children were here and the parents understood the program and had the information. It's been a win-win for all three organizations."

This year, MCM also partnered with HOPE Enterprise Corporation/HOPE Federal Credit Union to offer lessons for both children and adults focused on financial literacy. Thad Fairley, HOPE Program Officer, explains that the company was created to offer financial assistance and access to financial institutions to areas that have limited resources. "It is essential for people to have knowledge of how to be financially stable. Part of our goal as a company is to empower people in our communities with financial stability. That is one of the reasons HOPE was created," he says. "I hope we continue to do this, and I believe it is truly making a difference in this community."

Felicia Lyles, the VP Regional Branch Administrator for Hope Federal Credit Union, adds that this partnership also helps children learn the role of financial institutions early. "Being successful financially affects everything we do. The decisions we make now will affect us later in life," she says. "If they are making good decisions now, they will continue to make good decisions when they go to college and start working as adults."

Patti Reiss credits the strong partnership with BBKM for the success of *Planting the Seeds to Read* in Indianola, which is the first time MCM has tried to replicate an ongoing program outside of the Jackson area. "We could not have had as successful a program without the B. B. King Museum's partnership, level of trust, level of cooperation, and attitude of volunteerism," she concludes.

Parent Quotes

"I love the interaction with the other kids. She was really shy before, but she's more confident in answering questions now."

- Sharon Burton

"I would definitely do it again. It was not only interesting for the children, but it was good for us as well."

- Rodney Richards

"Once the program started, they liked to get into more books. Sometimes on the weekend, they choose the books you have given them. They love reading it, and then they talk about it."

- Geraldine Jennings

"I have seen an improvement in his wanting to read. He'll pick up a book and say, 'We read this at the program,' and now he wants to read it at home too."

- Ronda Reed



MCM SUMMER 2017 CALENDAR

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

Check MCM's social media pages in the morning to see what we are celebrating each day in 2017. Join us for a pop-up program using that day's unique theme. #CelebrateEveryDay

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  @mschildsmuseum
  /mschildsmuseum

MAY



Saturday

06

Question It? Discover It! Allergies

Come & Go: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm



Sunday

07

Visiting Artist Workshop
Richelle Putnam:
Story to Song

Come & Go: 1:30-5:30 pm
and 21st



Friday

19

Members-Only Curious George Exhibit Preview Party

5:30-7:30 pm



Saturday

20

Curious George™: Let's Get Curious! exhibit opens

Come & Go: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

An awesome day to start your summer!



Saturday

20

Splash Pad Opens for Summer!

Free use to the general public



Tuesday

30

Blue Star Museum: Military Discount

Free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families

JUNE



Thursday

01

Outreach: Fondren's First Thursday

Come & Go: 4:00-7:00 pm



Saturday

03

Let's Get Curious about STEM

Come & Go: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm



Thursday

22

Pollinator's Garden Opening with a butterfly release

10:00 am

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!
MAGIC MONDAYS

OPEN EVERY MONDAY IN JUNE & JULY!

Join us for extra hours of inspiration and The Food Lab @ 3:30 pm!



Saturday

24

Question It? Discover It! Genetics

Come & Go: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

JULY



Sunday

02

Visiting Artist Workshop
Mallory Palmertree:
Marble Paper

Come & Go: 1:30-5:30 pm
and 19th



Week of

11-14

Educator's Professional Development Week

Sign up for classes at mschildrensmuseum.org



Saturday

15

Let's Get Curious about ART

Come & Go: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm



Saturday

15

Neon Night Adults-Only Fundraiser

7:00-11:00 pm



Sunday

16

Lights, Camera, Imagination Auditions

Come & Go: 1:00-4:00 pm



Saturday

25

Question It? Discover It! Brain Day

Come & Go: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

AUG



Saturday

05

Question It? Discover It! Pediatrics

Come & Go: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm



Saturday

12

Outreach: Bright Lights, Belhaven Nights

Come & Go: 3:00-7:00 pm



Saturday

19

Outreach: Mississippi Book Festival

Come & Go: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm



Saturday

26

Let's Get Curious about the color yellow

Come & Go: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm



9.23.17

LONG LIVE WONDER

SYNERGIZED BY THE LEFLEUR MUSEUM DISTRICT

CELEBRATIONS • FUNDRAISERS • AWARDS



Ashley Meena & Candie Simmons



Amye Bell & Ross Weems



Tish & Haden Hughes



Chavanne McDonald & Jenny Berryhill



Lyn McMillin & Beth Allgood



Janet & Charlie Spain

MCM Partners Annual Meeting

On Tuesday April 4th, a group of staff, supporters, and community members celebrated the work of the 2016-2017 MCM Partners. The MCM Partners are a vital part of the museum, providing volunteer and financial support throughout the year. As a non-profit organization, it is a priority for MCM to keep admission costs low so that every child in Mississippi has the opportunity to visit. In order to do that, MCM depends greatly on the generous support of our community. Without the involvement and enthusiasm of MCM Partners, the museum would not be able to offer the first-class experiences that it currently provides to the children and families of Mississippi.

To begin the celebration, 2016-2017 MCM Partners President, Janet Spain, welcomed guests to the museum. In her remarks, she reflected on the accomplishments and challenges of the past year. Guided by her theme for the year, "Be the reason a child can dream," she and the MCM Partners board gave of their time and their treasure to ensure that all children who visit the museum have a wonderful experience. The MCM Partners Board of Directors awarded Spain with an original piece of art by MCM Arts Educator, Emily Simmons. This piece, a painting of the museum, was used as the cover image on the invitation for Tuesday night's meeting.

Spain also discussed the success of this year's three signature events: *Ignite the Night*, *Neon Nights*, and *Fall Festival* and celebrated the hard work of their committees. Thanks to the help of Amye Bell and Nicole Rinaldi, the third annual *Neon Nights* was another sizzling summer success as fun-loving and community-minded young professionals gathered at the museum to enjoy food trucks favorites and live music. At *Fall Festival: Pop into Comics*, parents and children were encouraged to dive into classic comics and enter a world of fantasy as their favorite superheroes! Committee chair Chavanne McDonald and her super-powered team created a special family event that will be a remembered fall favorite for years to come. *Ignite the Night: London Calling* also was "just smashing" as guests hopped across the pond to indulge in an exciting evening of British food, music, and games. Alicen Blanchard and her dedicated committee made the evening unforgettable. Through these three events, as well as membership dues and the Youth Ambassador Council's raffle ticket sales, MCM Partners raised a total of \$195,555.08- the largest amount in the organization's history.

THIS YEAR MCM PARTNERS
RAISED A TOTAL OF
\$195,555.08



THE LARGEST AMOUNT
IN THE HISTORY OF
MCM PARTNERS!

Naming of the Gertrude C. Ford Literacy Garden



Hon. James E. Graves, Jr., MCM Board Chairman; John Lewis, Gertrude C. Ford Foundation board member; Susan Garrard, MCM President/CEO

The Gertrude C. Ford Foundation was honored during the MCM Partners annual meeting for its \$500,000 commitment to MCM for the *Literacy Garden*. "This gift is a continuation of the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation's commitment to the Mississippi Children's Museum. Literacy is an important part of our foundation's overall vision for improving education in Mississippi and increasing the quality of life for Mississippians," says John Lewis, Gertrude C. Ford Foundation board member.

The *Gertrude C. Ford Literacy Garden*, a 13,000 square foot outdoor gallery, which opened in summer 2014, is designed to encourage early language and reading skills development among children 0-8 years old. It combines whimsical, literary-inspired sculptures, innovative technology, and native plants, along with an edible garden, to pull children into the creative, limitless world of stories and imagination.

This space is intended not only to meet children's need for outdoor play, but to create a collaborative learning laboratory where children and their caregivers encounter elements critical for language and literacy acquisition. Since its opening, this space has grown MCM's educational capacity by allowing the museum to expand existing programming to the outdoors as well as to pursue new programming opportunities.

In October 2014, MCM was awarded a significant honor through a competitive grant from the Institutes of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) to finish the final phase of the garden's development. The *Literacy Garden* was also named a 2014 Southern Travel Treasure by AAA. This spring, MCM was nominated as a finalist for the National Medal for Museum and Library Service, which is presented annually by IMLS and is the United States' high-



est honor for institutions that make significant and exceptional contributions to their communities.

"We are so grateful to the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation for their ongoing commitment to the Mississippi Children's Museum, to literacy, and to providing innovative learning experiences for Mississippi's children," said Susan Garrard, MCM President and CEO. "The *Literacy Garden* truly is one-of-a-kind. It was designed and developed by Mississippians, incorporating Mississippi artwork and native plant species, to create a place of wonder and learning for all Mississippi's children."

"Because of the foundation's original gift for the *Gertrude C. Ford Traveling Exhibition Hall*, we have been able to host some truly innovative, hands-on traveling exhibits developed by children's museums and science centers from across the country. Being able to bring them to Mississippi has tremendously enriched the learning experiences we can provide. This summer, we are pleased to welcome *Curious George*™. Let's Get Curious! from the Minnesota Children's Museum," says Garrard.

Preston Myers Hays Award of Light

The Preston Myers Hays Award of Light is presented each year to an MCM Partner who embodies the spirit and light of the late Preston Myers Hays and embodies the qualities that she held most dear. The recipient of this award is someone who works hard for MCM Partners and the museum. This year, the award was presented to MCM Partner Advisor and life-long Jackson native, Libba Wilkes. Wilkes selflessly gives her time, knowledge, and resources to the museum. On every project she takes on, she serves with a creative spirit and a can-do attitude that brings joy and drive to those around her.



Clay Hays, Dr. Jimmy Hays, Libba Wilkes, Mary Preston Dubberly, Janet Spain, Carlene Scanlon, Susan Garrard

FACES OF MCM

MCM DONOR | PAM CONFER FROM NISSAN CANTON

When MCM installed its new Nissan Altima exhibit in December 2016, Pam Confer, the Director of Community and Public Relations for Nissan Canton Vehicle Assembly Plant, was one of the first visitors to take it for a spin.

"Our prized possession here at MCM is the Nissan Altima, which has been one of the favored exhibits since 2010. Our new replacement Altima this year simply takes 'awesome' to a new level," Confer says. "From under the hood, to inside the car, to around the wheels, the 200,000 kids that visit the museum each year will have an even more incredible experience in STEM."

In her role with Nissan, Confer manages the community outreach efforts for the plant, which includes its relationship with MCM. She says that she hopes interacting with the Altima exhibit will give children a look at technology in the automotive field.

"When I visit the museum, and see both children and their parents enjoying the car, I know that Nissan's impact is far-reaching," she says. "Nissan Canton is the second largest employer in the state with 6,400 employees that build 350,000 vehicles a year. Perhaps, one day, these same kids will find themselves working at the Nissan plant as a member of our talented, valued team. We sure would love to have them."



MCM DONORS | GI DOCTORS

Did you know that when you blush and your face turns red, the lining of your stomach also turns red, or that the acid in your stomach is strong enough that it can eat through a piece of wood? These are just two of the fascinating facts that the doctors at GI Associates & Endoscopy Center recently shared with MCM to help spark children's curiosity about this complex and critical body system.

"GI health includes everything from what we eat, to belly pain, to bowel movements," says Dr. Mary Allyson Lowry, GI Associates' newest pediatric gastroenterologist. "Teaching children from a young age about the importance of healthy nutrition and healthy GI systems can affect them and improve their quality of life well into adulthood."

The gastrointestinal tract may not be a topic that most people think about unless they are experiencing digestive issues. However, researchers keep discovering new and important connections between the gut and other areas of health. More and more, it really seems, "you are what you eat."

"Guardians control what their children know and eat when they are young, Lowry notes. "It is very important to introduce children to a wide variety of foods and nutrients from the start and encourage them to try new things even when they don't think they will enjoy it. Also, water, water, water! We all need to drink more water and less of sweetened and caffeinated beverages."

That is one reason why MCM is so grateful to GI Associates not only for their medical expertise but also for their ongoing support. As a founding donor, they sponsored one of MCM's most popular exhibits, the Gastroclimber. While the concept of being eaten, digested, and eventually flushed out a toilet might turn the stomach of some, to our young visitors, getting a food's-eye-view not only is informative, but also a learning experience that is serious fun!



MCM VOLUNTEER | JARVON GAINES

Volunteers at the Mississippi Children's Museum are prime examples of youth and adults giving back to the community and the children and families who visit MCM. The Youth Ambassador Council (YAC) gives nominated high school students a way to get actively involved in supporting the museum through volunteerism.

Jarvon Gaines, a 10th grader at Jackson Academy, first visited the museum years ago with friends and thought that it was a fun place to visit. This year, Gaines became a YAC, but his experience with community service started long before that as a Webelos level Cub Scout. It was because of his involvement with the YAC program at MCM, that Gaines chose to help MCM through his Eagle Scout project. He built a Little Free Library and installed it at the front of the museum for visitors to enjoy. The Little Free Library is a free book exchange that encourages people to 'take a book and leave a book.'

As a Boy Scout, Gaines has been very accomplished and this project brings him a step closer to becoming an Eagle Scout. As part of this process, scouts have to complete a certain set of requirements. "Jarvon has completed a total of 36 merit badges as a Boy Scout. He has enjoyed the many campouts, Monday night meetings, and hours of volunteering on various projects," his mother, Rita Gaines, says.

Gaines was assisted with this project by fellow Boy Scouts, Will Spence, Brandon Miller, and Charlie Gautier, Scoutmaster Bill Spence, with support from Rita Gaines, Martin Harrison, William Gaines, Taylor Gaines, and Phyllis Spence.



Dr. Sara Rippel, Dr. Mary Allyson Lowry, Dr. Angela Shannon

MCM STAFF | MARION STECKLER

Marion Steckler has been a part of the MCM family since March 2014 when her first task was to prepare for the summer unlocking of the *Literacy Garden*. Since then, Steckler has worked in many roles at the museum, including development and education before she became the Design Manager for MCM's marketing department. "Working with multiple departments has given me a greater understanding of all aspects of the museum," she says.

Now, as a member of the museum's marketing team, her daily duties include creating many of MCM's graphics that are used for campaigns, signs, newsletters, and more. You will recognize her work on MCM's website, the monthly Play-By-Play, and on invitations and marketing materials for MCM Partners' events. Steckler even designed the custom wrap for MCM's outreach vehicle in 2016, which can be seen driving around the state.

She enjoys working as part of a team where everyone plays a role in creating the fun, fantastic, final results. "It's so exciting to be involved with something from the beginning design stages to the finished product. The experience is rewarding because of the positive reactions from visitors and staff," she says.



MCM MEMBERS | HENDERSON FAMILY

When you see siblings Olivia and Daniel Henderson playing in the museum, you may recognize their faces from the oversized light pole banners in MCM's parking lot or their voices from MCM's radio advertisements. That's because this duo is part of MCM's Lights, Camera, Imagination (LCI) group that represents the museum through advertisements and videos throughout the year.



For the Hendersons, who have been members of the museum since 2013, being a part of the museum's promotions has been a fun experience for the past several years. Before this year, both Olivia and Daniel were in LCI in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

"I normally make the kids rotate auditioning to give each one their own time to shine, but last year it was open so they both went for it and won a spot again. This is year three for us," Tanya Henderson, their mother says. "The kids love seeing themselves in magazines and flyers pictures and the staff that works with Lights Camera are great."

As the children have grown, Tanya says they have a routine when they visit the museum. "When we first get there, they all head for downstairs and go to their favorite spots. We also all go outside to the *Literacy Garden* or they even do puppet shows for me," she says. When asked about her favorite experience at the museum, Henderson recalls MCM's *Holiday Spectacular*, "Myself, my husband, and all the kids attended. It was a very fun family night. We sipped hot cocoa and ate cookies. Now, we look forward to this each year."

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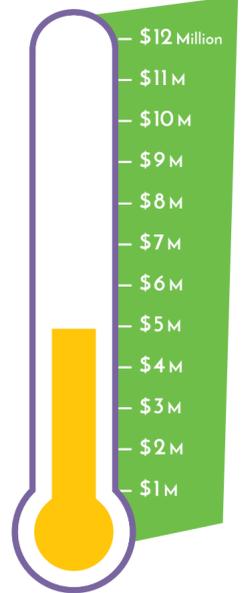
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Mari Ashlyn & Carter
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As anyone who has spent any time on MCM's Welty Porch knows, it is furnished with rocking chairs and checkered boards that beg visitors to sit a spell and while away an afternoon over a friendly round of chess. For many, chess is merely a fun, if complex, game. However, this ancient and quiet sport has some valuable lessons to teach to today's modern students.

tersect, sequences are ordered, points are visualized on a coordinate plane," he explains. "But the experience of playing against others and improving one's ability also has parallels to science—students experiment with various strategies and observe the results, rejecting ideas that don't work and retaining those that do."

"Chess develops numerous skills that are beneficial for both school and life: focus, patience, visualization, planning, attention to detail, documentation, learning from mistakes, pattern recognition, evaluating options, executive function, time management, perseverance, sportsmanship, and humility," says Alex King, MS Achievement Through Chess (MATCH) Program Manager at the University of MS Center for Mathematics and Science Education.

Chess also has important applications for mathematical and scientific learning too. "Given the abstract, spatial, problem-solving nature of chess, as a subject, it has natural connections to mathematics—lines in-

SAVE THE DATE

- June 26-30
MCM Chess Challenge
Summer Camp
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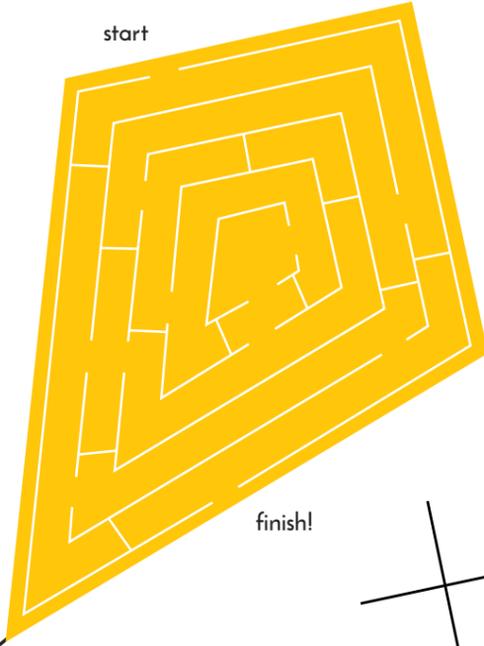
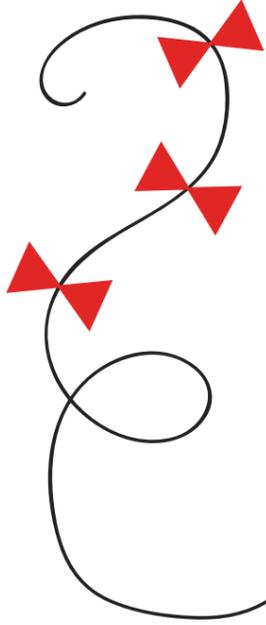
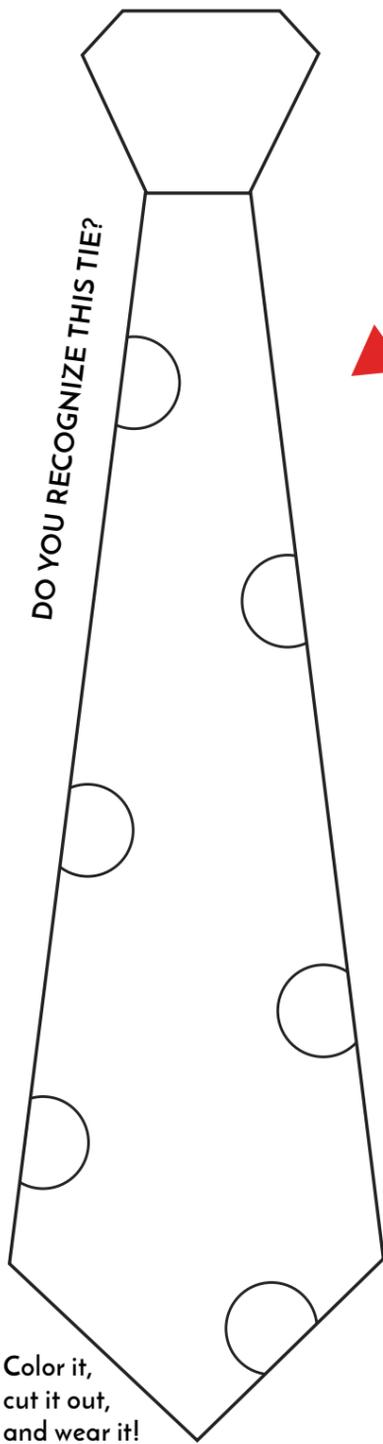
"Perhaps most importantly, chess demonstrates that skills can be developed, that improvement is possible, and that this is achieved through practice and study. I have seen firsthand how chess can improve students' academic motivation and performance," King concludes.

This year, MCM will be upping its game and taking chess to an entirely new level at the museum. From June 26-30, MCM will have Chess Challenge summer camp. In addition, through a partnership with the Mississippi Scholastic Chess Association, MCM will host two tournaments, an unrated Beginner's Chess Tournament on September 16 and the Grade Level Championships on October 14.

MCM relies on generous community support to be able to continue to provide unparalleled experiences that ignite a thirst for discovery, knowledge, and learning in all children! Give to MCM to provide critical funding for museum exhibits and programs.

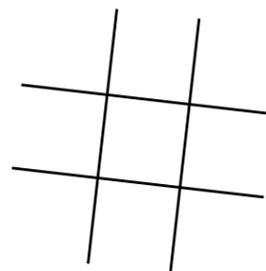
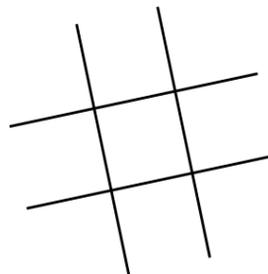
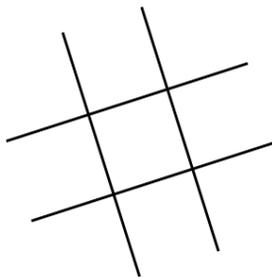
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- EEPL _____
- KEYOMN _____
- OUSURIC _____
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MONKEY
CURIOUS
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Bananas are a nutritious snack rich in potassium. Potassium helps keep your brain and bones healthy and strong!



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1. Cut a banana into 1/2 inch slices.
2. Top a cracker with a banana slice.
3. Drizzle with honey and sprinkle with cinnamon.

DID YOU KNOW?

The banana's combination of carbohydrates, simple sugars, and dietary fiber provides energy needed for physical activity.



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