



## MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM - MERIDIAN

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# The Mississippi Children's Museum – Meridian Celebrates Ribbon Cutting Prior to Grand Opening

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**Meridian, Miss.** – The Mississippi Children's Museum – Meridian (MCM-Meridian) hosted a Ribbon Cutting ceremony on Thursday, March 25th at its location on 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

Elected officials, donors, museum board members, and staff joined together to cut the ribbon in celebration of the museum's grand opening, which will take place on Saturday, March 27th.

MCM-Meridian is grateful for the support of over 700 influential donors and community partners for making the dream of building a state-of-the-art children's museum in East Mississippi a reality. Signature donors of the project include The Phil Hardin Foundation and The Riley Foundation, as well as support from the State of Mississippi and the City of Meridian.

"When we set out on this journey six years ago, we had big dreams, but I think it's safe to say that we have exceeded those dreams. The collective power of believing that we can change our community is like a flame that grows brighter and brighter as we join together," said Liz Wilson, the executive director of MCM-Meridian.

The museum includes the nation's first permanent *Goodnight Moon* exhibit, a two-story brainiac climber, a library inspired by the Academy Award-winning short film and children's book, *The Fantastic Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore* by William Joyce, a *WonderBox* tinkering lab, and will soon include a whimsical 25,000 square foot garden inspired by local writer and illustrator, Edgar Parker. Each gallery is designed based on MCM-Meridian's educational initiatives: STEAM, literacy, health and nutrition, and Mississippi heritage.

Museum members will have the opportunity to visit the museum on Friday, March 26 and the museum will open to the public on Saturday, March 27 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (closed between 12 – 1 p.m. for cleaning). Adults must be accompanied by a child. Tickets must be purchased in advance to reserve your visit. Visit [www.mcmmeridian.org](http://www.mcmmeridian.org) to purchase tickets.

In addition to daily admission, MCM-Meridian offers annual memberships, birthday parties and facility rentals, traveling exhibits and programs, field trips, professional development, and will soon offer seasonal camps. You can

help MCM-Meridian dream big by volunteering, becoming an MCM-Meridian Partner, or contribute to the Inspire a Child annual fund.

### **About the Mississippi Children’s Museum - Meridian**

The Mississippi Children’s Museum - Meridian (MCM - Meridian) is the East Mississippi satellite campus of the statewide Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM)—a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that creates unparalleled experiences to inspire excellence and a lifelong joy of learning. MCM-Meridian is building a 25,000-square-foot facility with exhibit space designed around three primary initiatives: Literacy and Arts; STEAM; and Health and Nutrition with Cultural Arts and Mississippi History woven throughout all galleries. Outdoors will soon be a 25,000-square-foot exhibit gallery that allows children a safe and magical space to explore and enrich the learning experience. The museum’s exhibits, programs, and outreach opportunities will provide engaging, explorative, hands-on educational activities for children of all ages. MCM - Meridian is a strategic part of the statewide Mississippi Children’s Museum which is dedicated to inspiring ALL of Mississippi’s children from ALL backgrounds to discover and achieve their potential. To learn more about MCM – Meridian, visit [www.mcmmeridian.org](http://www.mcmmeridian.org).

### **About the Mississippi Children’s Museum**

The Mississippi Children’s Museum (MCM) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering in its visitors a passion for lifelong learning, improving the health and well-being of Mississippi children, and instilling a sense of state pride in all Mississippi residents. The mission of MCM is to create unparalleled experiences to inspire excellence and a lifelong joy of learning. The goal of MCM is to inspire Mississippi’s children from all backgrounds to discover and achieve their potential. The 40,000-square foot museum is designed around five primary initiatives, with correlating exhibits, programs and outreach efforts. These initiatives include: Literacy, STEAM, Health and Nutrition, Cultural Arts and Mississippi Heritage—the keys to helping our children mature into healthy and productive adult learners. Museum exhibits 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).

**Pictured (Left to Right):** Dr. Terry Dale Cruse, Mayor Percy Bland, Dr. Amy Carter, Kyle Rutledge, Liz Wilson and her children, Trent, Mailande, and Lilli, Dr. Malcolm Portera, Terry May, Becky Farley, First Lady Elee Reeves, Robert Ward, Susan Garrard, John Fletcher, along with local children.

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