



## MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

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# The Mississippi Children's Museum Opens Its First Satellite Museum in Meridian

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**Jackson, Miss.** – The Mississippi Children's Museum (MCM) is excited to expand its statewide reach by opening its first satellite museum, The Mississippi Children's Museum – Meridian (MCM-Meridian) on March 27.

The Mississippi Children's Museum opened in December 2010 and has welcomed over 1.4 million visitors from Mississippi, the US, and foreign countries. The vision of expanding MCM's first-class museum experience became a dream in 2015, when a group of volunteers from Meridian sought MCM's expertise on bringing a children's museum to East Mississippi. One of MCM's strategic goals is to embrace more Mississippi children with high quality, educational experiences and saw this as the perfect opportunity to join forces.

Six years later, this dream is becoming a reality as MCM-Meridian prepares to open its doors and spark creativity, imagination, discovery and learning for all children who visit.

MCM-Meridian invites guests to attend the Sky's the Limit Grand Opening event held on Saturday, March 27 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. (closed for a cleaning break between 12 p.m. – 1 p.m.) and will also be open on Sunday, March 28 from 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 per person (adults must be accompanied by a child) and must be purchased in advance to reserve your visit. Please visit [mcmmeridian.org](http://mcmmeridian.org) to buy timed tickets. Following the grand opening weekend, the museum will be open Tuesday-Sunday.

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

"The Mississippi Children's Museum has played an important role in the lives of Mississippi children and the adults who care for them over the last decade. By expanding our reach to East Mississippi, more children will have the opportunity to learn and play in a 21<sup>st</sup> century children's museum, which will

help them develop into healthy, engaged, and inspired adults,” says Susan Garrard, MCM President.

MCM-Meridian will offer similar educational programs and museum experiences as MCM, such as 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 joining MCM-Meridian Partners, sign up to volunteer, or contribute to the Inspire a Child annual fund.

### **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).

### **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 is 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).

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