



THE MCM PLAYBOOK

SPECIAL EDITION 2021 • VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 2

TIMELINE

MUSEUM MAP

COMMUNITY
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GRAND OPENING

There is a quote in the museum from the childhood classic Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie; "the moment you doubt whether you can fly, you cease for ever to be able to do it." I cannot think of a better way to sum up this project.

What child has not donned a cape, pair of wings, or even ruby red slippers and set off on an adventure? It never ceases to amaze me the creativity our children possess. Childhood is this magical developmental stage of life where one can journey to lands unknown, assemble an army to battle one's fears, or create a world of whimsy full of the most unsuspecting characters.

Unfortunately, the playfulness and the tangible and intangible spaces needed for our children to flex their "imagination muscle" are becoming harder and harder to find. This is the reason this project has been so important and its physical space so carefully imagined. Here children and families will

be able to soar through the clouds, travel to faraway lands, meet the "brain" of the operation, tinker with their innovative spirit and more—it would be impossible to doubt whether one could fly when inside these walls!

This magical space and commitment to inspiring a lifelong joy of learning would not be possible, though, were it not for the overwhelming support of so many (over 700 and counting)—families, teachers, businesses, and community leaders who never stopped believing that this project would take flight. Together we have done what many thought was impossible... fly...and now the sky's the limit!



Elizabeth Wilson,
Mississippi Children's Museum-Meridian
Executive Director

Elizabeth Wilson

THE DREAM TEAM

BUILDING TEAM

It's because of these talented teams working behind the scenes that we're able to provide everlasting experiences to be enjoyed by children for generations to come. Through years of conceptualizing, designing, and building, the work of these teams has warranted a truly magical space for children and families to gather, play, and learn.



Engineering Plus



MERIDIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

This collaborative team of community leaders have spearheaded the MCM-Meridian project from start to finish. They made the grand vision of a high-quality children's museum become a reality for the community of Meridian and surrounding areas.



REACHING FAMILIES STATEWIDE

The Mississippi Children's Museum is our state's leading early education institution that strives to serve children of all backgrounds to help them discover and achieve their potential. This goal is accomplished through collaborative shared services between MCM & MCM-Meridian to deliver quality inquiry-based learning opportunities to children and families statewide.



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MUSEUM STAFF





TIMELINE



2016

The MCM-Meridian dream was born when a dedicated group of women from Meridian sought out the Mississippi Children's Museum to explore creating a first-class museum for East Mississippi.

2015

Founding Committee:
Kimberly Denison, Liz Wilson,
and Kim Bowers

It's official! After approval from the Mississippi Secretary of State, the Mississippi Children's Museum-Meridian, LLC kicked off its capital campaign, "Mississippi Children's Museum-Meridian: Inspiring minds. Creating community. Innovating futures."

MCM-Meridian established its home on the site of the former "Sears" building on 22nd Avenue! After careful consideration of proposals from architects nation-wide, the Building Committee selected Mississippi-based Weir Boerner Allin to design the museum.

2017



2018

With the site secured and the architect and exhibit designer in place, the building and 9,500 square feet of exhibits started to leap off the paper.



2019

The "Take Flight Mississippi" public campaign launched, inviting the community to help us raise the final \$1,000,000 towards the completion of the project. Due to the success of this campaign, MCM-Meridian officially broke ground later this year.



2020

Construction of the 25,000 square foot museum was in full force! To show gratitude to our community during this challenging year, we launched a social media campaign, "Building Tomorrow Together," to spotlight our over 700 donors for their continued support and devotion to the project.



2021

The day has finally come...Grand Opening! After six-years of perseverance and hard-work, the museum is opening its doors. MCM-Meridian's indoor and outdoor experiences are complete and prepared to inspire endless possibilities for learning, growth, and discovery. You might even say that the Sky's the Limit at MCM-Meridian! See page 6 to see what's to come!





MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
MERIDIAN

INSIDE THE MUSEUM



My Storybook Factory

Prompts children to bring their stories to life through literature, music, art, and performing arts.

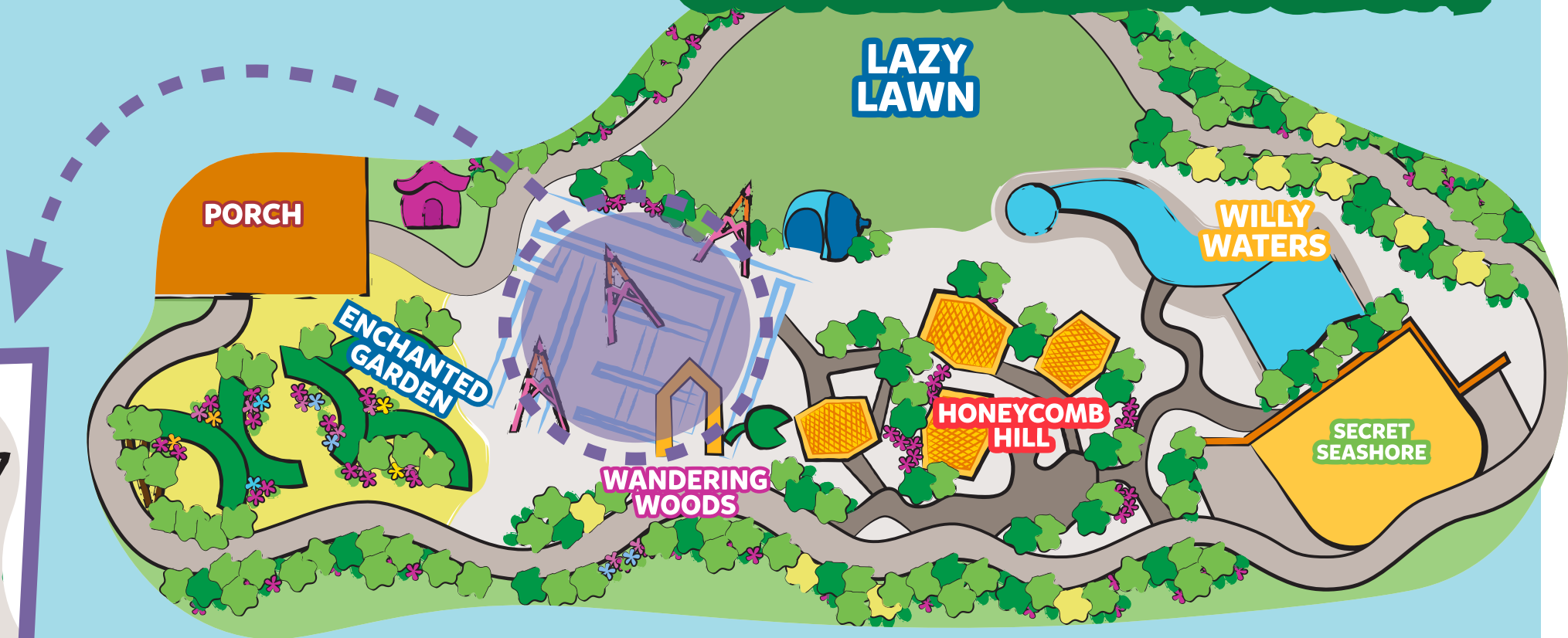
Wonderbox

Allows children to use the design cycle to test their ideas through their creations.

My Best Me

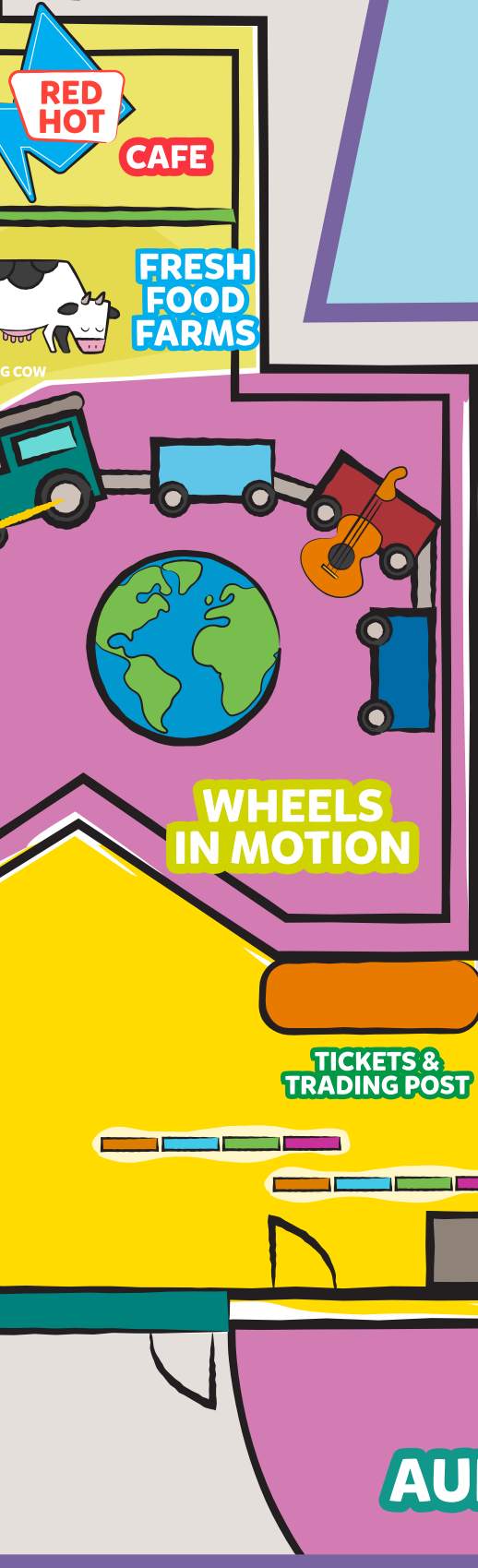
Inspires children and families to understand the importance of developing children in a healthy and holistic way.

OUTSIDE THE MUSEUM



My Fantastical Backyard

Provides a green space for children to unleash their imagination.



FRONT ENTRANCE

Around My Town

Encourages children to aspire to succeed by incorporating STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts and Math) principles and cultural arts.

Welcome to the Mississippi Children's Museum - Meridian!



We're excited to bring a state-of-the-art museum experience, which focuses on early childhood learning through play and discovery, to Meridian and East Mississippi. While our exterior and interior spaces are colorful, inviting, and spark imagination and discovery, MCM-Meridian offers much more than what initially meets the eye. Let's help you get to know your new museum...

PLAY

ADMISSION

- Tickets are \$10
- Open Tuesday-Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Give the gift of imagination! Purchase a gift certificate for one-day admission or a membership for year-long admission.

MEMBERSHIPS

- Become a member and enjoy 364 days of FUN!
- Be a Champion! Add a dual membership to the Mississippi Children's Museum in Jackson, MS for only \$50 and be one of the founding dual "Champion" members!

BIRTHDAYS & FACILITY RENTALS

Celebrate birthdays and special events at MCM-Meridian!



LEARN

MCM TRAVELS

We bring the museum to you! With a variety of traveling exhibits and instructional programming, we can offer a fun, educational experience for your classroom based on your needs and interests.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our professional development workshops provide early childhood and elementary educators with inspirational, engaging activities to take back to their classrooms.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

MCM-Meridian will offer interactive weekly programming that will focus on our health, literacy and STEAM initiatives. These programs will help children in making good choices in a fun and interactive way, which is the best way for them to remember what they've learned.

FIELD TRIPS

For groups of 15 or more children, field trips to MCM-Meridian promote hands-on, inquiry-based learning that fosters valuable critical thinking skills.



MCM AT HOME

MCM at Home is an online program that allows families to access a wide variety of free resources from the comfort of their own home! These resources provide exciting, hands-on experiences focusing on literacy, the arts, science, health and nutrition, and can be accessed on our website anytime.

CAMPS

MCM-Meridian plans to host several camps throughout the year, during spring, summer, and winter breaks. More information coming soon!

GET INVOLVED

JOIN PARTNERS

MCM-Meridian Partners are a volunteer organization committed to promoting and financially supporting the museum through signature events and volunteering.

VOLUNTEER

MCM-Meridian's Volunteer Programs, for ages 16 and up, are the perfect way to earn community service hours, get real-world experience, meet new people, and learn about MCM-Meridian.



“The Riley Foundation is excited about the opening of the children’s museum. We know children will have a fun time exploring and learning while playing at the museum. Hands-on, interactive exhibits are the best way to learn and we’re thrilled that children will now have this opportunity.”
— Becky Farley, Riley Foundation



“This is a banner day for our community and region. In one sense, it’s the culmination of an amazing effort to get to this point, but for the children of East Mississippi it’s just the start of an incredible educational journey. We at the Phil Hardin Foundation can’t wait to see the extraordinary impact we know that MCM-Meridian will have in making learning more accessible, more enriching and more fun for all the children of our region.”
— Lloyd Gray, Phil Hardin Foundation



“The MCM-Meridian is a dream come true for the children and community of Meridian. It is my hope that the museum sparks a curiosity and deep love for learning within our children, our families, and our city.”
— LaVonda Germany,
Elementary Director of Curriculum and Instruction,
Meridian Public School District

“It will be a cool place to play with my friends.”
— Vivi Ransier, 10 years old

“I am glad there is a Children’s Museum in Meridian! I am excited to see some airplanes there. I am excited to make arts and crafts there.”
— Carri Rockette,
7 years old

“MCM-Meridian is a dream realized for the City of Meridian and Lauderdale County. With its opening comes the realization that children from all over will be introduced to mind-blowing exhibits that are sure to trigger critical and analytical thinking. They will not only be entertained, but inspired; not just impressed, but leave with a positive mental impression that will direct them to do great things in their futures.”
— K. Dustin Markham,
MCM-Meridian Advisory Committee,
Attorney at Law

“I’m happy the children’s museum is opening in Meridian. I’m going to have fun and learn at the same time!”
— Mariana Mora-Cordova , 8 years old

“There is going to be some new stuff that isn’t in the Jackson children’s museum. There’s going to be so much stuff to do that I think will be lots of fun!”
— Matthew Hall, 11 years old

“It is exciting in many ways because people will not have to drive long distances to enjoy one of the museums. It makes me happy; kids can have fun in all the states of America.”
— Bentley Gowdy, 9 years old

“My family and I have been anxiously awaiting the opening of the Meridian Children’s Museum. Our six grandchildren now have access to educational experiences that are unlike any other in East Central Mississippi. We are looking forward to all the fun!”
— Leigh Anne Whittle,
MCM-Meridian Advisory Committee Member

“The Junior Auxiliary of Meridian is thrilled to see MCM-Meridian open! As an early financial supporter, we believe in the mission of the museum and know it will enhance the lives of children in our community in countless ways. We look forward to watching the museum ‘take flight’ for generations to come!”
— Patty Ann Bogue,
Junior Auxiliary of Meridian President

MCM-MERIDIAN DONORS

Contributions and pledges to the Mississippi Children’s Museum-Meridian

(list updated through March 1, 2021)

* denotes an in-kind donation

If you wish to change your recognition, please contact us at donate@mcm.ms.

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State of Mississippi
The City of Meridian
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The Riley Foundation

AVIATORS \$500,000 - \$999,999

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continued on next page

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continued from previous page

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Mid-South Welding Supply, Inc.
Over the Moon Children's Boutique
Pi Beta Phi Fraternity
Russell Christian Academy
Smoothie King
Southeast Elementary
Squealer's Hickory Smoked Bar-B-Que
SuperTalk Mississippi*
Suqualena United Methodist Church
Threefoot Brewing Co.
Weidmann's Restaurant
West Lauderdale Class of 2000
West Lauderdale Honor Society
Wilson Realty
World of Flowers
Xavier University of Louisiana
Meridian Alumni Chapter
Yoo Yoo Yogurt



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